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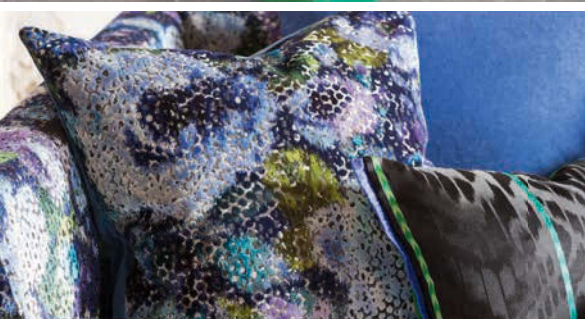
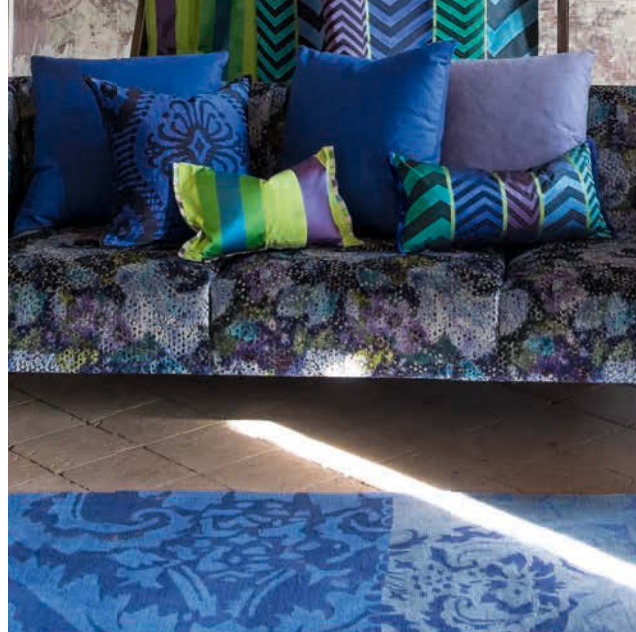
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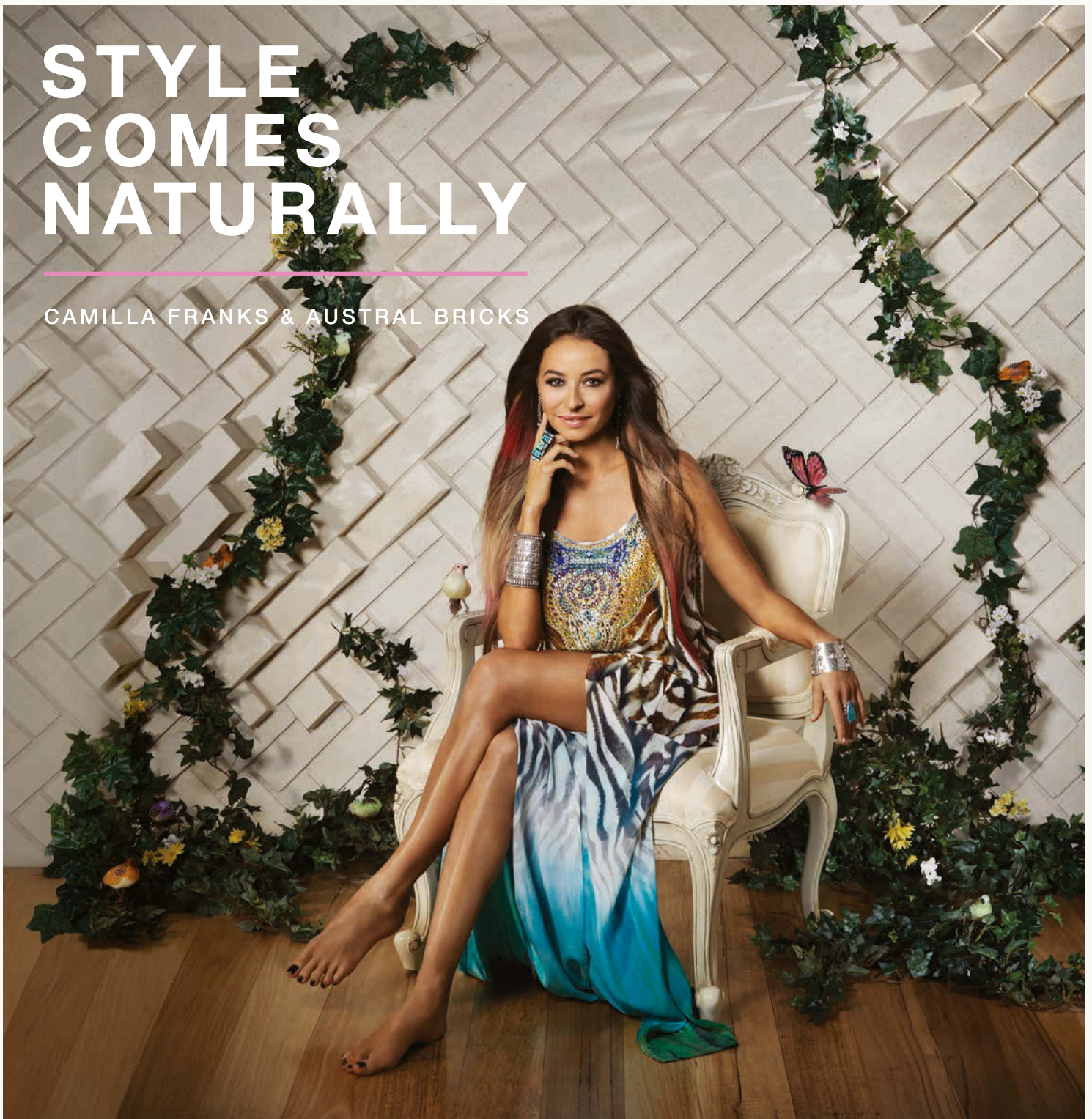
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JANUARY

summer sorted!

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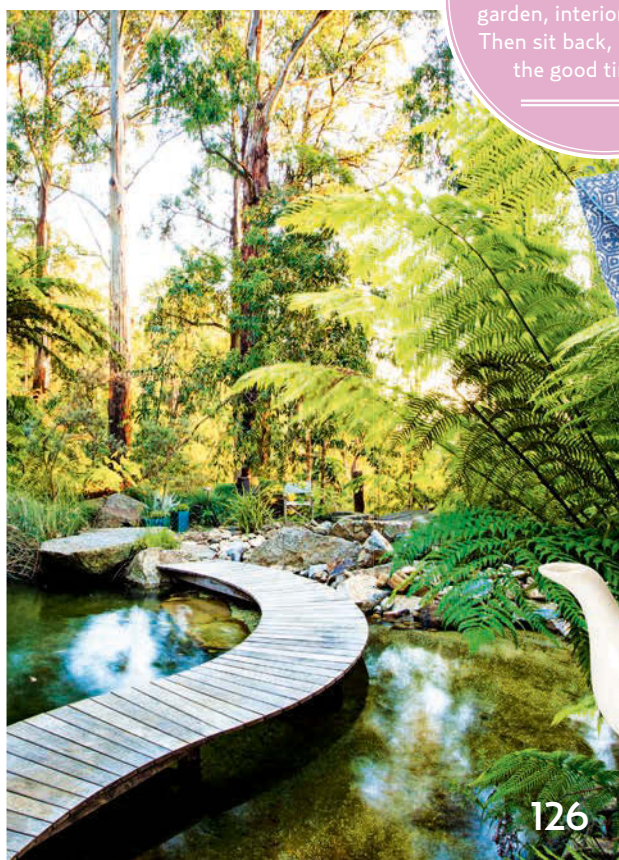
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So summer

Ring in the new year with fresh and lovely ideas for your garden, interiors and table. Then sit back, relax and let the good times roll.



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the
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Ode to summer



Summer. In my urban 'hood it heralds fat-leaved trees, bowing to meet in the centre of the road, fragrant frangipani and jasmine, pretty robinia and a surge in early morning foot traffic and panting pooches. If an easterly is blowing, as it was on the day of writing, there's salt in the air and it's still present, right in the heart of the CBD, as I leave the office in the evening.

How lucky we are to be an island nation, with a drop-dead gorgeous coastline everyone feels they have a claim on, no matter where they reside.

As a country kid who knew the brown dread that is drought, holidays at the beach were a balm for parched skin and relief from the dust, washing all tension away. Little wonder so many of us hold the seaside and its scents and colours so dear.

Interior designer Darren Palmer, the boy from *The Block*, joins *H&G* as a columnist this month. His first Masterclass (page 68) addresses durable, liveable coastal style and I know you'll enjoy his no-nonsense, practical tone and boundless passion for lovely interiors.

It's an approach reflected in all of our feature homes too. No one does summer like Australians. Our lifestyle is informed by climate and landscape, reflected in our architecture and held in our hearts and psyche. Note details like flood-proofing, sand rooms, servery windows, outdoor showers and protected courtyards, peruse the *H&G* team's seasonal hints, Summer 101 (page 47), and you will have no excuse for not getting amongst it. Happy holidays, one and all.

Lisa

EDITOR IN CHIEF

It's a crazy idea to tattoo a chair but *H&G*'s collaboration with henna artist Lubna Shehzad Pirani for Temple & Webster's Legacy fundraiser came up a treat. The flower design symbolises joy and happiness, while the leaves signify longevity, devotion, perseverance, entwined lives, and vitality. *Lubna's Tattoos (Henna);* www.lubnas-tattoos-henna.webs.com.



MEHNDI, OR HENNA, IS TRADITIONALLY APPLIED TO CELEBRATE HAPPINESS AND JOY.

Darren Palmer

INTERIOR DESIGNER & AUTHOR



Darren's new decorating Masterclass debuts on page 68. "Being asked to contribute to *H&G* is hugely exciting," he says. "I'm grateful to have an opportunity to share my views on all things interior and deliver simple, useable insights."

Louise Bickle

STYLIST



For this month's issue, Louise styled film producer Jan Chapman's Sydney home (page 24). "I loved the open, summery style of the house and feel lucky to have met such an amazing, elegant and understated woman," she says.

Your H&G

H&G, you've restored my sanity! I was expecting more bills in the letterbox but instead, there was my December issue. I opened it immediately, intending to just flick through the magazine. Two hours later, after solving all my Christmas problems, I returned to mundane housework with a spring in my step. Thank you for an extra-special edition.

Gill Davis, Deakin, ACT

IN YOUR CORNER

When I see something in a magazine that I like, I always fold the corner of the page so that I can easily refer back to it. My husband saw my December copy of H&G and asked whether I was making a paper Christmas tree, because I had folded so many pages! Thank you for a consistently informative and inspiring magazine that continually motivates me.

Deborah Bowden, Rosebud, Victoria

BUTTERFLY EFFECTS

I was delighted to see a butterfly chair in your November issue (Wonder Weaves). This was the first furniture my husband and I bought when we got married 62 years ago. We had two butterfly chairs with black frames and blue canvas covers, and loved them. In fact, one of our daughters still has the original frames. I must show her the trendy printed covers

now available. I also loved your exciting array of cushions in the same story – such a wonderful collection of colours and patterns. After seeing these, I've decided to brighten up our home.

Pamela Benness, McMahon's Point, NSW

TAKING THE INITIATIVE

I was struck by the story entitled Bush Therapy in your September issue. At first glance I thought, 'A lovely home, but way out of my reach'. Then I started reading and found that the owners had done the rendering and landscaping themselves, built and upholstered furniture, restored old finds and pulled this family home into the shape it is in now. I've realised it's not about having lots of money but a desire to use your initiative and get up and do something. Many thanks for such an encouraging and inspiring feature.

Susan Kippe, Coolgardie, NSW



FLOWER OF THE MONTH

ALSTROEMERIA

COLOURS Variegated shades of pink, yellow, orange, red and white.

SHAPE The flowers have flared petals, often with markings such as spots or streaks. They appear in sprays on wiry stems.

LOOK FOR "Buds that are closed or about to pop," says florist Victoria Bentley of Sydney's Flowers by Teresa. "They're long-lasting flowers."

BEST DISPLAYED "En masse, in one colour, in a large fishbowl or squat cylinder vase," says Victoria. "They're also great in bouquets: I like them with pure white hydrangea, David Austin roses and gardenias."

Flowers by Teresa, Marrickville, NSW; (02) 9559 3369 or www.flowersbyteresa.com.

To see Victoria's beautiful arrangements with alstroemeria, visit our Pinterest page in January.



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THE AUTHOR OF EVERY LETTER PUBLISHED RECEIVES \$50. OUR FAVOURITE ALSO WINS A FABULOUS PRIZE.

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People's choice

Well, dear readers, you've had your say... and the 2014 Top 50 Room you loved the most is 'Modern Classic' by WA interiors whiz, Chrissie Hogan.

The sophisticated colour palette, those windows, and the timeless combination of furnishings were all elements of Chrissie's room that readers fell in love with. But our favourite response this year came from Lia Tonich, who was overwhelmed by the room's light and space, as well as its opulent styling. With her winning words, Lia scores the amazing furniture package below, valued at \$7672. It includes a Metro sofa (\$1999) upholstered in Jarvis fabric from our Top 50 Rooms sponsor, Warwick. Plus an outdoor furniture package from Blu Dot comprised of a Jibe three-seater outdoor sofa in White (\$2499), a Skiff rectangular table in White (\$1499), Skiff bench in White (\$999), and four Hot Mesh chairs (\$169 each). Congratulations!



Fitting in beautifully with the black and white theme at our Top 50 lunch were the guest gifts – gorgeous handmade candles from Gascoigne & King; www.gascoigneandking.com.

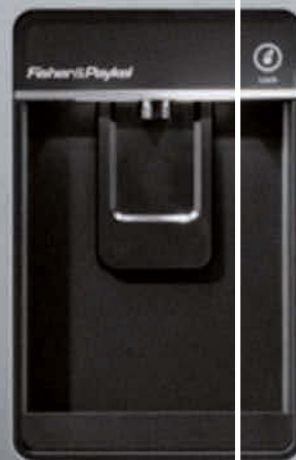
Styling Anna Flanders (room). Photography by Angelita Bonetti (room), Ben Hansen (candle). Artworks by (from left) Paul Davies, Suey McEnally, Will Cooke.



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TURN TO PAGE 168 TO SEE THIS MONTH'S EXCLUSIVE SUBSCRIPTION OFFER

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ON OUR COVER

Come on in, sit down and relax... There's an open invitation at this seaside sanctuary in Sydney, photographed by Maree Homer.
To see more, turn to page 24.

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Inspired by...

With pink-tinged clouds drifting in an evening sky, Min Woo Bang's exquisite work, 'The Passage of Time', captures a summer twilight and sets up our palette this month. Cool cotton cushions, pale porcelain and shapely seating chime in, fostering heavenly harmony.




INSPIRED BUYS *The Passage of Time* oil on canvas painting (183x183cm) by Min Woo Bang, Wagner Art Gallery. Hosk Solid cotton cushions in (from top) Pale Pink, Light Grey and Marshmallow, \$40/each, Country Road. Jamie Durie for Riva 1920 Ficus cedar stool, \$1435, Fanuli. 1616 Arita Japan porcelain espresso cup and saucer in Yellow/Pink/Light Blue, \$110, Minami. Sika Renoir rattan hanging chair, \$595 (cushions not included), Domo. For Where to Buy, see page 196.

Porter's Paints
Man Pink

Taubmans
Salem Blue

Dulux
Cape Lee



Reminiscent of a Roman or Balinese villa, the walled pool area is an oasis in the city and, says homeowner Jan Chapman, has been a real asset when entertaining.

SCENE CHANGE

Searching for sanctuary, film producer Jan Chapman found her ideal location in Sydney, within reach of the dazzling Pacific Ocean.

STORY ROSE-MARIE HILLIER ♦ STYLING LOUISE BICKLE ♦ PHOTOGRAPHY MAREE HOMER





ABOVE LEFT The kitchen is spacious and fuss-free. Benchtops made from green terrazzo, Gosford Stone & Terrazzo. Kitchen by DK Design Kitchens. Blackbutt flooring (throughout).

ABOVE RIGHT Jan relaxes in the sunny dining area. Banquette cushion upholstered in Donghia Espadrille, South Pacific Fabrics. Painting by Allen de Carteret, photograph from *The Piano* (on side table) by Grant Matthews.

OPPOSITE The covered rear courtyard, connected to the kitchen via glass bifolds, acts as an indoor-outdoor transition space. For similar outdoor setting, try Wintons Teak. Gate, Art of Stone. For Where to Buy, see page 196.



Like the consummate host, the best homes invite us to put our feet up and relax. The two-storey Federation semi of acclaimed film producer Jan Chapman is one of those. Sitting tight beside a coastal walk in Sydney's east and just a minute from the beach, it's a no-fuss affair that welcomes friends and family whether they have sandy feet or are dressed to the nines.

Jan and her husband have lived here for 20-odd years. "I really love its openness and easy flow," says Jan. But the real draw was its proximity to the ocean, its nearby coastal walks and the rejuvenating views.

Another bonus was that the house sat on a double block. This gave the couple the opportunity to create a private garden and an all-seasons entertaining area. "We built a pool that could be viewed from the kitchen when our [now adult] son and his friends were playing," says Jan.

Jan's work (her credits include *The Piano*, *Lantana*, *Somersault* and *Bright*

Star) involves collaborating with large groups, so her home is her sanctuary. "As much as I love my work, I also love having this place to retreat to," she says.

The ground floor of the east-facing house is largely open plan, containing a small, sun-drenched sitting room that is ideal for reading, a comfortable living room with Jetmaster fireplace and a spacious kitchen/dining room with deep banquette seating. Three bedrooms, two bathrooms and a study are located upstairs. "There are lots of lovely nooks where people can hide away," says Jan.

The indoor-outdoor connection is fundamental to the success of the house, says Jan. "We have courtyards at both front and back and balconies off the bedrooms. The steel-framed glass doors can be completely pushed back so that the courtyard and kitchen become one."

In 2006, Jan felt the home was in need of an interior update and engaged Sydney interior designer Briony Fitzgerald to help realise her vision. ➤

H&G INSPIRED BY

◀ As a result of Jan and Briony's creative collaboration, the house hums with colour. Jan opted for a spirited palette, including several different wall colours and vibrant soft furnishings. "The colours in the garden complement those in the house too," says Jan. "Some of my favourite plants are bougainvillea and the Chilean jasmine (*Mandevilla*) that scents the air with its perfume in summer." Inside are arrangements of eclectic objects found on Jan's travels and mementos from her films.

"It's a few years since the makeover now and I still enjoy the colours, textures and designs Briony created, especially the banquette in the kitchen. All that has needed updating are the accessories," she says. ▶

Briony Fitzgerald Design, Bondi Junction, NSW; (02) 9389 4912 or www.brionyfitzgeraldsdesign.com.au.





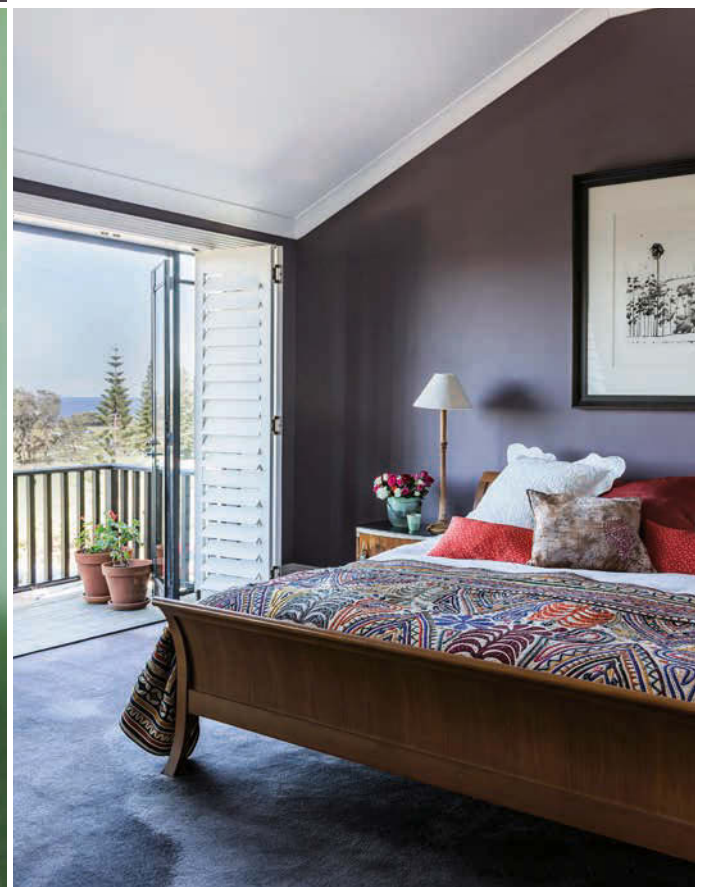
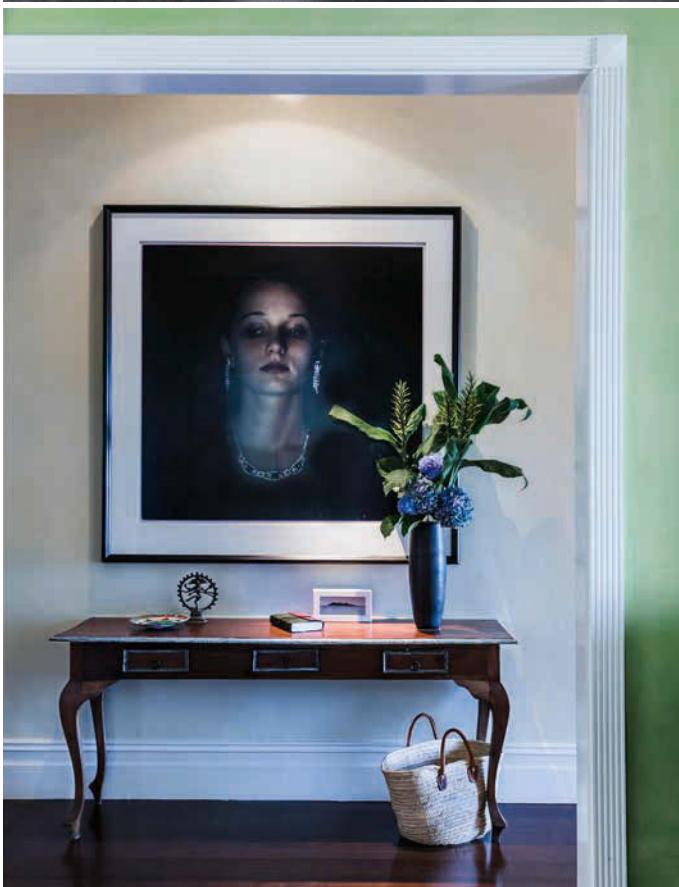
'THERE ARE LOTS OF LOVELY NOOKS WHERE PEOPLE CAN HIDE AWAY.' JAN

LEFT "My bedroom is a wonderful place for reading or just staring out to sea," says Jan, who has placed a much-loved armchair and vintage ottoman in her favourite corner. Side table, Orson & Blake. Artwork by Wentja Morgan Napaltjarri.

BELOW LEFT A haunting photograph from Bill Henson's Paris Opera series hangs above an antique hall table just outside the living room.

BELOW RIGHT The main bedroom opens to a balcony with magnificent sea views. The bedcover is a memento from a trip to India. Artwork by David Rose. Escape Velour carpet, SuperTuft.

OPPOSITE The colourful sitting room, located at the front of the house, is primarily used for reading. Walls painted a custom-glaze by Briony Fitzgerald Design. Chandelier, The Country Trader. Artworks by Tim Johnson (left) and Katie Pye. The rug was bought on an overseas trip. For *Where to Buy*, see page 196.



'AS MUCH AS I LOVE MY WORK,
I ALSO LOVE HAVING THIS
PLACE TO RETREAT TO.' JAN

The heavily scented hot-pink flowers of Chilean jasmine spill out over an urn on the front terrace, a favourite spot for whale watching. Patio setting, Parterre. For Where to Buy, see page 196.

Porter's Paints
Roman Ochre
(rear exterior walls)

Porter's Paints Ice
(kitchen/dining)

Porter's Paints
Hydrangea
(main bedroom)

Porter's Paints
Dew (living room)



A look we love

Furnishings, artworks and mementos collected over years are united by a masterful colour scheme in this rich, warm and personal home.



From the front door to the garden oasis out the back, this colourful coastal home cossets and inspires the creative folk within.

A journey through the home reveals comfortable furnishings and interesting objects aplenty, all tied together with a paint scheme that excites and soothes. Shapely Louis-style chairs and over-stuffed sofas invite visitors to settle in and stay awhile; an old-favourite armchair with a to-die-for view offers a spot for quiet contemplation. In every room there are fabulous cushions, upholstery fabrics, rugs and artworks — treasured trappings of the well travelled. The colour continues into the garden; a pretty, protected idyll by the seaside.

FROM TOP Old Havana iron chandelier, \$599, French Country Collections. Basil Boucheroite recycled-textile rug (255x150cm), \$800, Few and Far. Paulette metal table lamp with fabric shade, \$100, and French oak armchair with linen upholstery, \$699, both Provincial Home Living. Franc embroidered-linen cushion, \$55, Exhibit Interiors. Dibbern porcelain teapot, \$149, Beclau. For Where to Buy, see page 196.



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STYLING ASHLEY PRATT ❖ PHOTOGRAPHY RODNEY MACUJA

Solvinden solar-powered lighting chain (7m), \$20, Ikea. Glass hanging mason jars with wire handles, \$9/each, Pottery Barn. Fejka artificial plants, from \$6/each, Ikea, in Minimal porcelain hanging planters in Grey (left) and Peacock, \$49/each, Angus & Celeste. For similar ladder, try Doug Up On Bourke. Foliage from Poho Flowers. Background painted Porter's Interno Lime Wash in Amalfi, \$45/L, Porter's Paints (throughout). For Where to Buy, see page 196.



\$65, \$60 Ceramic hanging planters with leather straps, \$65 (large), and \$60 (medium), LoveHate.



\$20 Oahu woven-grass placemat, Eb&Ive.



\$80, \$11 Metrokane Rabbit Retro ice crusher, \$80, Howards Storage World. Kinto Tria resin goblets, \$11/each, Top3 by Design.



\$40 Library of Flowers hand creams in (from left) Wildflower & Fern, The Forest and Arboretum, \$40/each, Lark.



\$40 Gasmate two-burner gas camping stove, Bunnings.



\$30 Adventure stainless-steel drink bottles with bamboo lids, \$30/each, TMOD.



\$15 Beach canvas cosmetics bags with mirror base, \$15/each, My Island Home.



\$70 Redecker Hedgehog beech and bassine fibre door stops, \$70/each, Saison.



\$74, \$64 Kai room and linen spray, \$74, and Skylight fragrance candle, \$64, Mecca Cosmetics.



\$35 Animal linen tea towels in Fluoro Orange (left) and Coral, \$35/each, Bonnie and Neil.



\$89 Trent & Steele stainless-steel citrus press, Domayne.



\$20 Boho cotton bunting (4m), Madras Link.



\$25 Ceramic herb stakes (set of six), Ivory House.



\$80, \$20 Medley melamine tray, \$80, Citta Design. Stockholm bamboo salad servers, \$20, Davis & Waddell.



\$25 Coconut & Elderflower Hand & Body Wash and Hand & Body Lotion, \$25/each, Ecoya.



\$135 Diana F+ Honeycomb 35mm film camera, Lomography Australia.



\$30 Assam glass and plastic tea set (includes teapot, two tea glasses and two spoons), Bodum.



\$106 Malati Floral in Palace (top) and Prachi Stripe in Dove polyester outdoor cushions, \$106/each, Sparkk. ➤



\$30, \$23 Kate Spade New York Black Stripe melamine dinner plate, \$30, and Dots salad plate, \$23, Outliving.



\$129 Scandi porcelain vases (set of three), Angus & Celeste.



\$40 Adventure Awaits leather passport holders, \$40/each, Kikki.K.



\$37 Retro Sounds plastic AM/FM radio, Sunnylife.



\$149, \$50 Grid plywood swing, \$149, Pop & Rocket. Panama hat, \$50, Seed Heritage.



\$40 Indigo Love Weave bone coasters (set of four), Few and Far.



\$9 J. Friend and Co gourmet honey, \$9/each, Simon Johnson.



\$35 Kin ceramic noughts and crosses, Papaya.



\$40 Box Appetit polypropylene lunch boxes (includes sauce dish, inner dish and fork), \$40/each, Until.



\$59 Mini poly-cotton parasol set (includes towelling cushion/cover), Bellamee.



\$95 Cocky 2 linen tote, Bonnie and Neil.

H&G SHOPPING



\$59 Laura deluxe market basket with leather handles in Freesia, The Market Basket Co.



\$40 Dot Dash linen napkins in Mint Green (set of four), Arro Home.



\$75 Farmhouse glass drink dispenser, Pottery Barn.



\$17 Daydreamer Barbados, Bondi and Bora Bora loose-leaf teas, \$17/each, The Seventh Duchess.



\$75 Yellow Tile Pattern coconut-fibre doormat, Doormat Designs.



\$90 Kate Spade New York fabric-covered iPad Mini folios in Toucan and Beach Stripe, \$90/each, Papier D'Amour.



\$70, \$40 Market Day Abstract Watercolour cotton picnic rug, \$70, Mozi. Portsmouth glass and steel lantern, \$40, Freedom. ➤

H&G SHOPPING



\$45 Stripe velour and terry-cotton beach towels in Lime and Orange, \$45/each, My Island Home.



\$60 Uber Premium pine and coir quoits set, Yardgames.



\$30 Buzz earthenware bird feeder, Freedom.



\$92 Tom Dixon Hide leather travel tags, \$92/each, Safari Living.



\$13, \$18, \$25 Vildapel bamboo plant stand, \$13, Ikea. Serax Boord Pastel ceramic pot (on stand), \$18, and Craquelle pot, \$25, Beautiful Spaces Inside and Out.



\$50 Hardy Bay Publishing Love Travel Guides, \$50/each, Girl & Graaf.



\$65 Stainless-steel folding barbecue tools (includes spatula, scraper/brush and fork), Williams-Sonoma.



\$55 Lychee canvas chiller bag, Citta Design.



\$40 Florence Broadhurst Spotted Floral Greens steel fork and trowel, \$40/each, Outliving.



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9 BY
DESIGN

DECKCHAIRS

Styling by Kate Stratton. Stylist's assistant
Kayla Gex. Photograph by John Paul Urizar.



1 Fermob Plein Air Chilene steel deckchair with PVC sling, \$850, Cotswold Furniture Collection; 1800 677 047 or www.cotswoldfurniture.com.au. **2** Mysingsö beech deckchair with polyester sling, \$40, Ikea; (02) 8020 6641 or www.ikea.com.au. **3** Portsea eucalyptus deckchair with polyester sling, \$99, Freedom; 1300 135 588 or www.freedom.com.au. **4** Parkscape hardwood deckchair with canvas sling, \$350, Falinc; 0411 895 645 or falinc.com.au. **5** Flamingo wooden deckchair with canvas sling, \$195, Hardtofind; hardtofind.com.au. **6** Les Toiles Du Soleil ironwood deckchair with cotton sling, \$185, Scout House; (03) 9525 4343 or www.scouthouse.com.au. **7** Sandi aluminium deckchair with Textiline sling, \$299, Domayne; www.domayne.com.au. **8** Basic ironwood deckchair with canvas sling, \$165, Ici et Là; (02) 8399 1173 or www.icietla.com.au. **9** Sailbag teak deckchair with recycled-sailcloth sling, \$440, Beachwood; (02) 9918 7162 or www.beachwood.com.au. Golden cane palm, \$20, Bunnings; www.bunnings.com.au. Kinto Tria plastic tumblers, \$11/each, and French Bull melamine platter, \$25, all Top3 by Design; 1300 867 333 or www.top3.com.au. Basil Bangs The Shrubbery canvas outdoor cushion, \$85, The Design Hunter; (02) 9369 3322 or thedesigntohunter.com.au. Sunnyslife Luxe cotton beach towel, \$79, Top3 by Design. Livyn Essential Classic Oak Grey Brown vinyl flooring, \$35/m² (supply only), Quick-Step; (02) 9982 3777; www.quick-step.com.au.



9 BY DESIGN

OUTDOOR PLATES

1 Bird melamine dinner plate, \$30/set of six, Outliving; (02) 8755 1500 or www.outliving.com.au. 2 Kate Spade New York Multi Stripe melamine dinner plate, \$30, Lark; www.larkstore.com.au. 3 French Bull Kat melamine dinner plate, \$15, Until; (02) 9119 8700 or until.com.au. 4 Kinto Tria acrylic resin plate, \$12, Top3 by Design; 1300 867 333 or www.top3.com.au. 5 Market Day Citrus Spiro melamine dinner plate, \$17, Mozi; www.mozi.com.au. 6 Rope Outdoor melamine dinner plate, \$7, Pottery Barn; www.potterybarn.com.au. 7 Striped melamine dinner plate, \$6, West Elm; www.westelm.com.au. 8 Missoni for Target melamine dinner plate, \$20/set of four, Target; www.target.com.au/missoni. 9 Variopinte enamel 21.5cm deep plate in Light Blue, \$20, Citta Design; cittadesign.com.

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101 SUMMER IDEAS

for your home and garden



Use the end-of-year break
to lavish a little attention on your
place with these ideas from the *H&G*
team. From plantings to plates and
paint, easy updates await.

Photograph from Getty Images (book).
Produced by Alaana Cobon, Janet James, Sarah Pickette,
Ashley Pratt & Elizabeth Wilson



1 | Get into the groove of summer with a fun-for-all-ages Highflyer swing. Simple and sturdy, it's made in Australia from American white oak and double-braided rope. \$220, Anaesthetic Design; anaestheticdesign.com.

2 | To keep metal outdoor furniture looking its best, give it a wash with soap and water every six months. Keep it off the lawn to avoid corrosion.

3 | Now's the time to care for your deck. Stain and coat it with sealant or protect it with transparent decking oil and let it weather to grey.

4 | Hosting a crowd is a breeze with the Jamie Oliver Pro six-burner barbecue, \$899. Made from stainless steel, it's available exclusively at Masters Home Improvement; www.masters.com.au.

5 | Gardens need lots of TLC at this time of year. Show yours that you care with extra mulch and early morning watering.



6 *Put a little magic into your summer evenings: string fairy lights and hang lanterns in the canopies of your trees.*

7 | Keep maddening mosquitoes from bothering your tots with Vanessa Megan's Bug Off My Baby certified-organic insect repellent roll on. Safe to use on under-twos, it's made from sweetly scented essential oils of cedarwood, tea tree and lavender. It also contains eucalyptus oil, which can help soothe any existing stings. \$19/50ml, www.vanessamegan.com.



8 | Pitch a teepee in a shady spot and you won't see the kids for hours. Banana J Creations makes a range in linen and lace that you'll never want to take down. From \$155. www.bananajcreations.com.au.

9 | Tread lightly on the beach with a bucket and spade set made from recycled milk containers. It's phthalate-, BPA- and lead-free. Green Toys Sand Play Set, \$37, Eco Toys; (03) 9444 7221 or www.ecotoys.com.au.

CLOTH ENCOUNTERS

Aussie designers are behind some of the season's most exciting outdoor fabrics. Look for edgy designs in sensational colourways — motifs inspired by the bush work wonders. Pictured: 10 Kangaroo Paw in Fiesta/Ethereal; 11 Banksia in Steam/Orchid; 12 Shark Bay Rose in Mink/Blossom/Vintage Rose. All by Jude Taylor, cushions, \$95, or \$98/m, Sparkk; (02) 9517 4600 or www.sparkk.com.au.



13

Grab a book and settle into this Macramé hammock with cotton sling by Citta Design, \$119. Bliss! Voyager Interiors; (03) 9208 0600 or www.voyagerinteriors.com.au.



14 | After an afternoon of gardening, sit back and enjoy the scene with a favourite cold beverage – or combine the two pleasures with the new hand trowel/bottle opener from The Little Veggie Patch Co. There's also a dibbler to help you successfully sow your seeds. \$60/each; (03) 9531 5594 or littleveggiepatchco.com.au.



15 | Outdoor showers are one of life's greatest pleasures. For a great-looking designer option, check out the generous new Marengo (\$957 for showerhead) from Rainware Outdoor Showers; (07) 5492 6200 or www.rainware.com.au.

16 | *Cotton on to composting. The clever CLO'ey composter converts food waste into nutrient-rich, odourless compost within 24 hours – and your plants will love you for it. Closed Loop; 1300 762 166 or www.closedloop.com.au.*

17 | Carve out a quiet corner from which to enjoy your garden. Curl up in a Ibiza Aztec easy chair, \$750, with its matching side table, \$405. Globe West; (03) 9518 1600 or www.globewest.com.au.



BEAUT BLOOMS

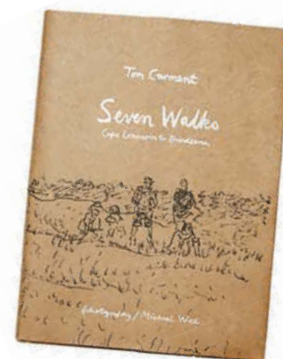
Add a splash of colour to your garden with these exciting new plant varieties. **18** 'Little Bibbi', a dwarf polygala; **19** *Agapanthus* 'Golden Drop'; **20** 'You and Me' double-flowered hydrangea. Look for them at your local nursery.

21 | Thanks to advances in all-weather fabrics, the line between indoors and out is ever more blurred. Take a stylish seat with the Watego modular outdoor sofa, from \$1099/section. It's made from teak with quick-dry foam cushions upholstered in heavy-duty outdoor fabric. Eco Outdoor; 1300 131 413 or www.ecooutdoor.com.au.

22 | Roll out a beautiful rug and ramp up the comfort in your outdoor zone. The plush new Tranterior indoor/outdoor rug collection by Jamie Durie Signature for The Rug Collection Australia is made from 100-per-cent recycled PET. From \$595 (1.6x2.3m); (03) 9421 5133 or www.therugcollection.com.au.

23 | We're all for fun in the sun, but don't forget to pack hats and sunscreen. UV radiation can penetrate underwater – at a depth of 50cm, it is still 40 per cent as intense as on the surface. For daily UV updates, download the free SunSmart app at www.cancer council.com.au.

24 | *Seven Walks* (\$69.95) by Tom Carment and Michael Wee combines lovely illustrations, photos and anecdotes to capture beautiful Aussie walks. www.sevenwalks.com. ➤



25 | Teach children the joys of growing their own food. Start with sweet strawberries or juicy cherry tomatoes and give them the tools to make it happen. Check out Lark's Fun Children's Garden Set, \$25, www.larkstore.com.au.

26 | Let the games begin! Bring back some good old-fashioned outdoors fun by gathering your family or friends together for a rousing game of croquet, shuttlecock or pétanque.

27 | For an entirely plastic- and paint-free drinking vessel, try The Reflect, the latest product from eco-drinkware pioneer Klean Kanteen. It has a stainless-steel screw lid topped with bamboo and food-grade silicone. \$40/800ml. Chalet; (02) 9427 9459 or www.chalet.net.au.

28 | Set the scene for a luxurious stay with a soft towel and a classy bar of heavenly scented soap. Aniseed, myrtle & charcoal soap, \$25/each, Gascoigne & King; www.gascoigneandking.com.



29 *Make the most of a bouquet of your favourite summer flowers... spread them over various vessels, cutting stems to fit.*



No room for a bulky sofa bed? A low-lying divan is a great small-space seating and guest-sleeping solution. Nordic oak divan with linen seat, \$1980, Satara; (03) 9587 4469 or www.satara.com.au.



31 | Streamlined and functional, ZIP Industries' new G4 HydroTap dispenses sparkling, boiling and chilled filtered drinking water from a single spout. 1800 424 344.

32 | Create an unforgettable first impression and paint your front door a high-impact new shade. Gloss paint is hard-wearing and gives a nice shine.

33 | Wrap a wine bottle in a wet tea towel and pop in the freezer for 30mins. It'll stay cool all the way to your picnic.

30

PICNIC ESSENTIALS

34 The Aztec beach towel, \$99, The Beach People; www.thebeachpeople.com.au. **35** Enamel containers, from \$39/each, Ten Things; www.tenthings.com.au. **36** Swiss Classic fork, \$48, and bread knife, \$68, Victorinox; www.victorinox.com. **37** Hexagon palm sheath cutlery (sold separately), \$6/25, and plate, \$9/25, Eco Plates; www.ecoplates.com.au.



38 | Capture the summer's highlights with a camera you can take absolutely everywhere. Cybershot DSC-TX30, \$349, Sony; www.sony.com.au.



RIGHT OUT BACK

Spruce up your garden for summer and beyond with these ideas from landscape designer Matt Cantwell, director of Secret Gardens.



39 | "Consider replacing old paths and steps with large irregular-shaped stepping stones. Soften the hard edges with a groundcover — two of my favourites are *Zoysia tenuifolia*, *Dichondra repens* or *Pratia pendunculata*."

40 | "The right furniture can transform the look of your space and increase the time you spend there."

41 | "Sculpture looks great in a garden. It doesn't have to be expensive but the scale and materials have to be right for the intended purpose and complement the materials and finishes, including the plantscape."

42

Combining a gable roof with a generous eave allows for careful control of sunlight, says architect Chema Bould, a director at Bower Architecture. "In summer the cantilevered terrace, which hovers above the gentle hills of the courtyard, becomes a shady extension of the living space and greatly improves its useability." bowerarchitecture.com.au.



43 | Aside from creating views from every room, a central courtyard makes a safe play zone for kids, with the added benefit of shelter from the wind.

44 | Connect your kitchen and outdoor zone by replacing traditional windows with bifolds to create a servery. Pull in some stools and a bench and you have your very own bar. Warning: guests may never want to leave!

45 | If you have space at the bottom of the garden, consider a freestanding pavilion or cabana. It's bound to become a favourite haunt. backyardroom.com.au.

46 | Low-line windows don't compromise on privacy and afford views of garden beds, pool or lawn. Paired with bifold or retractable doors, the connection to the outdoors is heightened.

47 | Take pattern outside and perk up your paving. Try a narrow, lineal tile or latch onto recycled-timber offcuts and have them laid in a beautiful parquetry manner.

48 | Control the amount of sun reaching the facade of your home with an awning. An external shade can block up to 80 per cent of the direct heatload on a window, keeping the inside of your home significantly cooler. They're easy to retrofit too. ➤

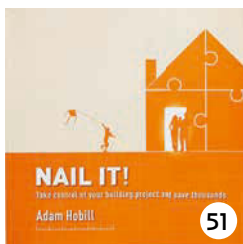
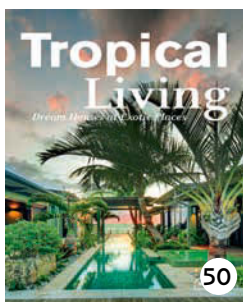
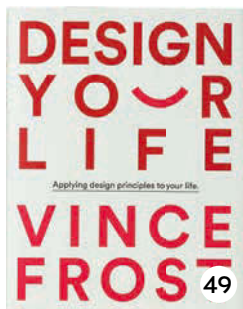
DESIGN READS

Three informative reads to get 2015 off to a bright start:

49 *Design Your Life* by Vince Frost (\$49.99, Lantern). Sydney-based designer Vince details 15 principles that can spark personal change.

50 *Tropical Living* by Manuela Roth (\$80, Thames & Hudson). The subtitle of this gorgeous coffee-table book, 'Dream houses at exotic places', pretty much says it all.

51 *Nail It!* by Adam Hobill (\$24.90, ExciteBooks). ACT building designer Adam offers expertise on how to build or renovate the right way, potentially saving you thousands of dollars in the process.



52

With windows on opposite sides of a room or house to encourage a cross breeze, you can eliminate the need for airconditioning. Architectural firm Owen and Vokes and Peters is a master of passive-cooling principles, beautifully displayed in this home on the Sunshine Coast. www.owenandvokesandpeters.com.



53 | Streamlined and child-safe, the Modern Roman Shades range from Luxaflex Window Fashions features a rear cordless design – which means a clean look and peace of mind for families with young children. Prices start from \$1100 for a 1.5x1.7m linen weave or sheer linen blind in Traditional, Tailored or Tiered styles; 135 892 or www.luxaflex.com.au.

54 | Folding chairs are a practical solution for small spaces. This elegant version from Smow is smart enough to work both indoors and out. Lampert MASH folding chair with weatherproof polyester seat and back, oak armrests and steel frame, \$698; www.smow.com.au.

55 | Buy a good-looking pedestal fan and you won't need to hide it away in winter. Arden bronze tripod fan on solid timber base, \$415, Cranmore Home; 0402 067 908 or www.cranmorehome.com.au.



GET MORE UP TOP

Does your roof need a refresh? Colorbond has 22 great roof colours designed just for Australian homes, including Mangrove (56), Terrain (57), and Jasper (58). www.colorbond.com.





64 | Create a buzz with these Honeybees recycled-rubber slides, \$30. Two dollars from every pair sold goes toward supporting the health of Australia's bee population. myhoneybees.com.au.

65 | Save wear and tear on indoor surfaces with a good doormat. Doormat Designs has myriad options to choose from; www.doormatdesigns.com.au.



66



67



68

HOT HANDLES

Replace the knobs or pulls on a chest of drawers or cupboard for an instant facelift. **66** Shadow ceramic knob, \$8; **67** Dandelion ceramic knob, \$8; **68** Rope-covered pull, \$24. All Hepburn Hardware; www.hepburnhardware.com. ➤

59 | Nothing says summer like crisp cotton bedding with pretty botanical prints. Strandkrypa queen-size cotton quilt cover set (includes quilt cover and four pillowcases), \$40, Ikea; (02) 8020 6641 or www.ikea.com.au.



60 | Refresh your usual table setting with coloured plates. Mint green and duck-egg blue are on-trend pastels and work beautifully with linen in every hue.

61 | Encourage lingering in the kitchen by providing a place to perch. You might even gain a helping hand! We like the Spin oak stool with revolving top, \$295, Clickon Furniture; www.clickonfurniture.com.au.

62 | Serve herbal and iced teas in a purpose-made jug. Finum shockproof plastic 1.8L iced-tea pitcher with ice filter, \$59, Beautiful Spaces Inside and Out; (02) 9310 7776 or www.beautiful-spaces.com.au.

63 | The sculptural Nikles Pearl Luce shower, \$800, features chromatherapy LEDs that are powered by water flow. 3-star WELS rating. Shower arm, \$200. 1800 032 566 or www.reece.com.au.



69 WASTE NOT, WANT NOT

Many vegies and herbs can be grown from kitchen scraps, including ginger, potatoes, bok choy and lemongrass. Plant a knob of ginger in a pot, buds facing up. When you're ready to harvest, simply uproot the plant, cut what you need and replant. For more ideas, go to blackthumbgardener.com.

70 | "Combinations such as saffron and marigold, rose and raspberry, pandan and thyme are charming and delicious and just a little bit mad," says Fleur Wood in *Food Fashion Love* (\$60, Lantern). "But there's nothing wrong with that."

71 | Make preserved lemons now and you can add a citrus zing to meals all year round. Place lemon peel in a clean jar and cover with olive oil and a handful of salt.

72 | Dining outdoors? Group cutlery in plant pots on a common table so guests can help themselves.

74

Smoking food at home is the hottest trend in cooking. Chef Anna Wong from Neila in Cowra, NSW, smokes duck breast over 2 tbsp each of jasmine rice, jasmine tea and brown sugar. To make her tea-smoked duck breast salad (pictured), follow the *viewa* instructions below. Neila holds cooking workshops throughout the year. To book, go to www.neila.com.au.



To download this delicious recipe, use the free *viewa* app and scan this page.



75 | If space is at a premium on the dining table, create a unique floral centrepiece by filling small jars with bright blooms and hanging them overhead, chandelier-style.



73 | Fashion fragrant napkin rings from sprigs of fresh rosemary.

AFTER-DINNER DELIGHTS

Cheesemonger Celia Hinault from Richmond Hill Cafe & Larder shares her favourite cheese and fruit pairings:

- 76** | Goats' cheese + cranberries, raspberries, blueberries, pomegranate.
- 77** | Camembert + apples, plums, almonds, apple cider jelly.
- 78** | Taleggio + cherry mostarda, sour cherry relish, sun-dried apricots, fresh dates.
- 79** | Cheddar + grapes, muscatels, candied cumquat.
- 80** | Manchego + quince paste, sun-glazed figs, pinenuts.
- 81** | Blue, gorgonzola dolce latte + fresh pear, toasted walnuts, pineapple.

82 | Elevate a carafe of tap water by adding fruit, herbs or even vegies. Slice them paper thin — think ribbons of cucumber, medallions of lime and clusters of mint or berries. Alternatively, try a charcoal stick (binchotan) for an elegant sculptural look that purifies your water too. Kishu binchotan, \$19/110g; www.amasia.com.au.

83 | Cook a perfect steak every time by following these three simple rules:

- ❖ When selecting a steak, look for cuts of uniform thickness.
- ❖ Remove meat from the fridge 10 minutes prior to cooking to allow the muscle fibres to relax.
- ❖ Brush the steak, not the grill, with oil and season both sides.

84 | Acquaintances will quickly become friends with the help of Kikki.K's Cute Conversation Starters (\$10/pack of 50). Call (03) 9645 6346 or go to www.kikki-k.com.



87 PLAY IT AGAIN

Chef and avid entertainer Guillaume Brahimi makes a mix tape for every occasion. These are his go-to tracks:

- ❖ *I Got You*, Jack Johnson
- ❖ *Summer Sun*, Koop
- ❖ *Quelqu'un M'a Dit*, Carla Bruni
- ❖ *Get Lucky*, Daft Punk
- ❖ *Candela*, Buena Vista Social Club
- ❖ *Smooth*, Carlos Santana & Rob Thomas
- ❖ *Better Together*, Rhythms del Mundo & Jack Johnson.

88 SUMMER WINES

Michael Gray from Monster Kitchen and Bar nominates his fave drops from the ACT:

- ❖ 2014 Nick O'Leary Riesling
- ❖ 2014 Clonakilla Viognier Nouveau
- ❖ 2013 Collector Tiger Tiger Chardonnay.

85 | When it comes to garnishes, chef James Viles from Biota Dining in Bowral, NSW, makes a beeline for the garden. "Pea flowers (right) and yarrow flowers look beautiful and add an extra dimension to simple dishes. For a garnish with bite, try radish pods."



86 | Protect your spread from pesky flies with a pretty food cover, cloche or even a length of muslin draped over the table.



89 | Labelling drinks is a good idea at large gatherings. Keep things stylish with strips of pretty fabric tied around the glass stems, or place a pile of old stamps in a lovely dish for guests to stick on their glasses.

90 | A group of white or coloured tapers in a sturdy ceramic plant pot is an effective alternative to pillar candles. Take a look at Queen B's range of slimline taper candles; (02) 9957 1668 or www.queenb.com.au.





91

91 | Brighten your deck or courtyard with fab furnishings. This eco-friendly polyester cushion cover, \$130, is part of a new range in sunny colours by Hello & Behold; www.helloandbehold.com.

92 | Individually potted succulents are an inexpensive and quirky alternative to standard dinner-party place settings. They're a lovely keepsake for guests too.



95



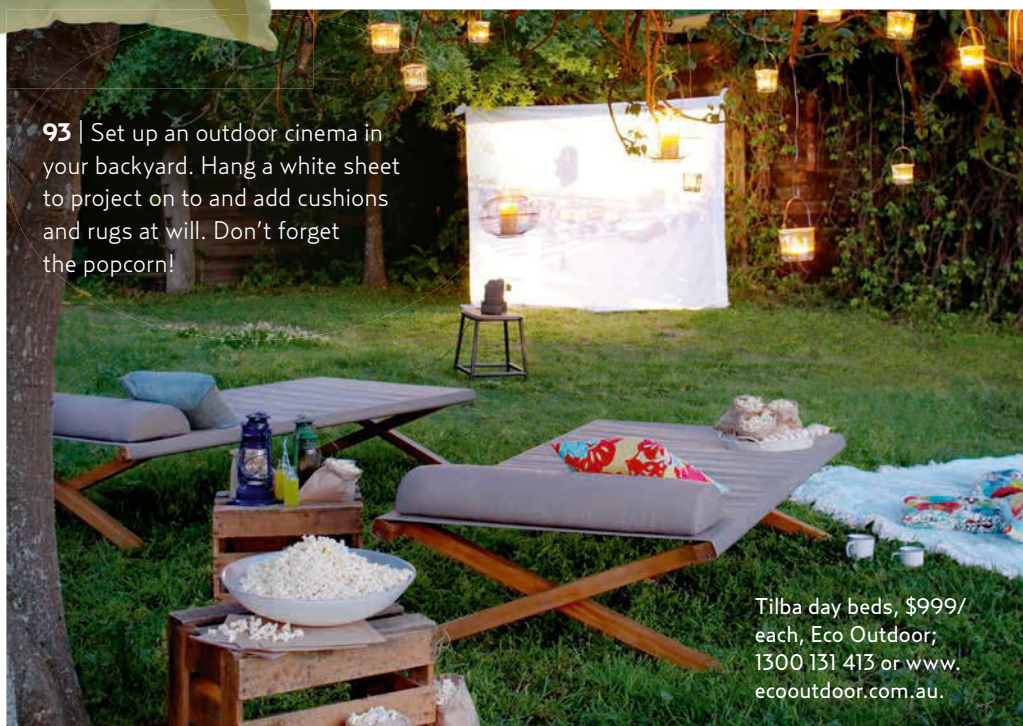
96



97

VINE ROMANCE

From Scott Leung at Eckersley Garden Architecture, three favourite creepers:
95 Crimson glory vine. Best for cool to temperate climates.
96 Virginia creeper. Temperate and subtropical regions.
97 Mandevilla 'Aloha Series'. Tropical and temperate areas.



93 | Set up an outdoor cinema in your backyard. Hang a white sheet to project on to and add cushions and rugs at will. Don't forget the popcorn!

Tilba day beds, \$999/each, Eco Outdoor; 1300 131 413 or www.ecooutdoor.com.au.

94 | If you're not one for holiday fiction, get a head start on 2015 with tips from business commentator Alex Malley's insightful book.

The Naked CEO by Alex Malley (\$24.95, Wiley)

98 | Here are three great new novels to enjoy this summer, recommended by the well-read team at Dymocks, that just might have you choosing sand over sea.

❖ *The Rosie Effect* by Graeme Simsion (\$29.99, Text Publishing).

❖ *Hello from the Gillespies* by Monica McInerney (\$29.99, Penguin Books Australia).

❖ *It Started With Paris* by Cathy Kelly (\$29.99, Orion).

These books — and thousands more — are available from Dymocks. Call 1300 396 625 or go to www.dymocks.com.au.

99 | A colourful cotton quilt or coverlet is the ideal weight for summer nights. It can also double up as a throw in the living room or be taken outdoors and used as a picnic blanket. Hand-blocked printed-cotton bedcovers, from \$199, Canvas; (03) 9545 5252 or www.canvashome.com.au.

100 | Personalise a child's space with a frieze made from pages copied from a favourite book. Affix it with washi tape — it's gentle on both paper and paint. Decorative washi tape, \$1/10m roll, Officeworks (in store only); 1300 633 423 or www.officeworks.com.au.

101 | Take time to renew your storage options — try modular elements that can be reconfigured as needed. Pictured is a unit made from Australian hoop pine-ply boxes, designed by Georgina Goddard and Morgwn Wilkie. It is finished in beeswax and Ecolour No-VOC paint. From \$1220, Work Shop Objects; www.work-shop.net.au.



officeworks.com.au/photo



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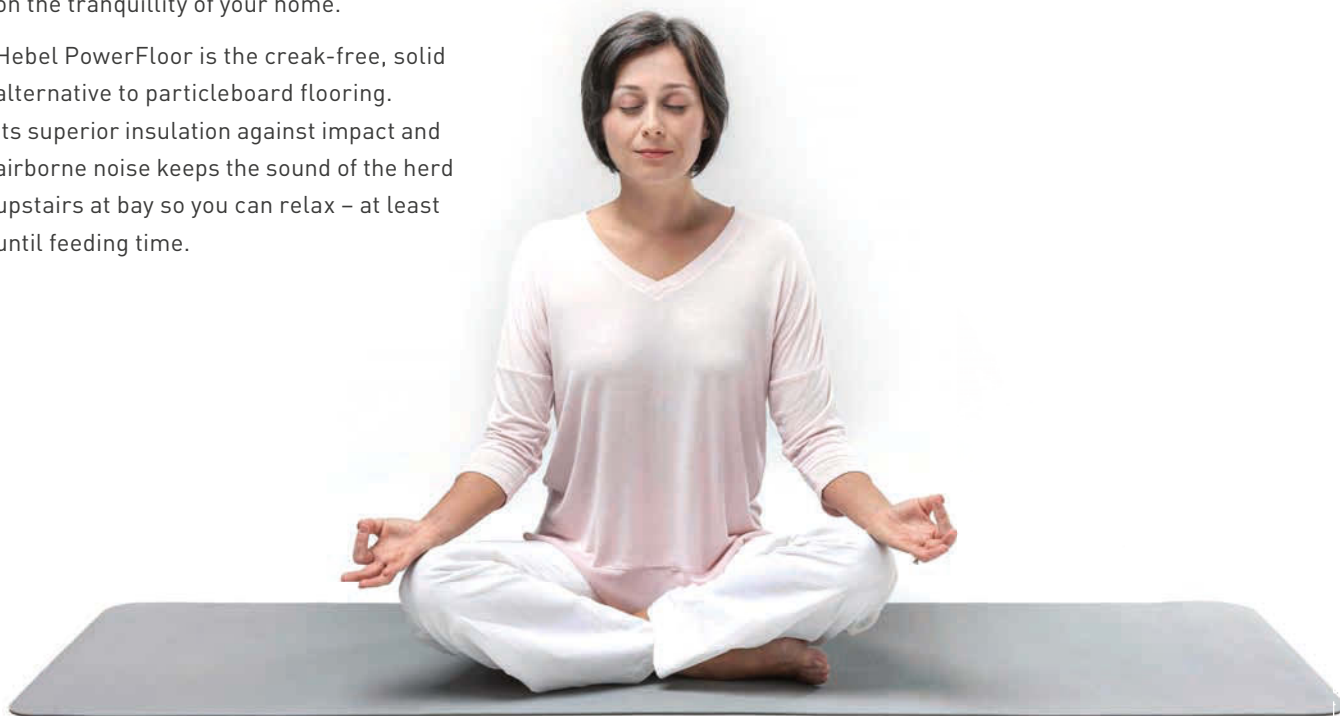


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1 BENCH MARK

An extended bench seat beneath the living room window provides a place to pause and take in the garden views as well as a surface for displaying loved objects and treasures gathered on beach walks. Beneath the bench, the call for storage is answered by deep drawers. The walls and drawer fronts are made from white-painted vertical joinery, while the bench itself is topped with timber floorboards from Royal Oak Floors to match the floor. The Benito armchair from Temperature Design is covered in Warwick Fabrics Sinai Denim.

10-step COTTAGE MAKEOVER

With simple structural changes and a few clever decorating touches, a tired seaside cottage is imbued with summer-fresh style.

TEXT BY JUDY OSTERGAARD ♦ PHOTOGRAPHY DEREK SWALWELL

This once-plain seaside cottage near Melbourne has undergone a refreshing transformation in the hands of interior designer Fiona Austin. With a handful of designer details and a sense of fun, she has moulded it into a comfortable and personal space that its owners are thrilled to spend time in. The home was in a good position with a north-facing rear garden, but internal spaces were cramped and the heavy patterned curtains and carpet were at odds with the seaside location. Fiona proposed an extension at the rear of the house to encompass a new open-plan kitchen/living/dining area, including a butler's pantry and laundry. Thanks to its pitched ceiling finished with white lining boards and a cosy stone fireplace, the extension plays on the cottage-style appeal of the home's stone facade. The kitchen cabinetry is painted Dulux Sea Breeze, a shade picked up in the living room accessories; an outdoor kitchen caters for a crowd when the extended family gathers. Meanwhile, in the main bedroom, a new bay window, walk-in wardrobe and ensuite allow the room to 'breathe' – and encapsulate the owners' preference for traditional style. ➤

2 SUPER STORAGE
The overhead cabinetry is a combination of glass-fronted cupboards and open shelving. The glass panels give both definition and depth and are a great way to display and store frequently used glassware. Finger pulls take the place of handles and each door is fitted with a magnetic touch opening. Above the stove, the rangehood is covered by a gently curving timber panel that also houses a small shelf for oft-used oils and seasonings.

3 PRETTY PALETTE
The kitchen cabinetry was livened up with a lick of Dulux Sea Breeze, a cheerful colour that evokes the ocean and the summer sky; against the white background, it feels fresh and inviting. The homeowners and visitors alike love to linger around the island benchtop, made of Carrara Quartz by Quantum Quartz. Traditional style notes include the brick pattern splashback of white ceramic tiles from Floor-Tech, classic Thonet stools and the matt-finished nickel drawer pulls by Kethy.

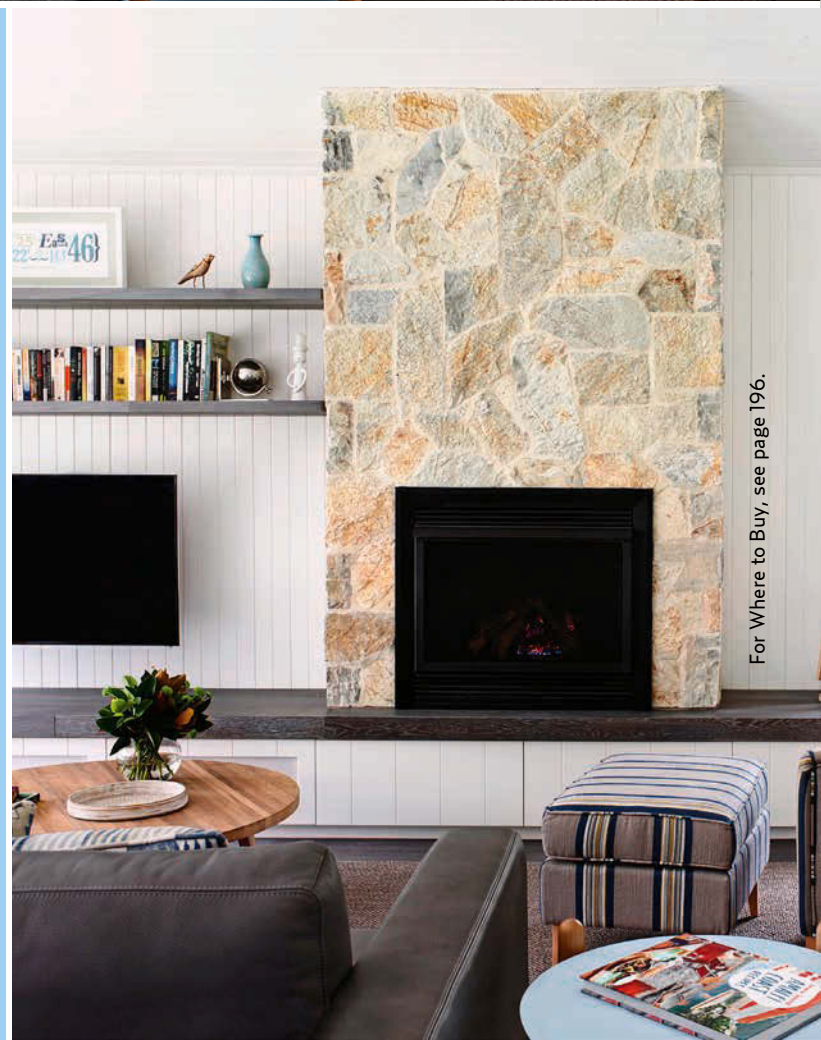


4 IN THE DETAIL
The 300mm overhang of the island benchtop provides room to tuck the stools out of the way when not in use. The adjacent space is given over to a niche – perfect for stowing cookbooks – and a deep drawer beneath it. The open shelf also serves as a visual pause in the bank of cupboards.



5 EVERYTHING IN ITS PLACE Furniture placement is well considered. Side tables are positioned within easy reach of each seating arrangement, ready to hold drinks, nibbles or reading matter. Coffee table and rattan-backed chairs from Globe West; side table, armchair and ottoman, all Temperature Design. The sofa, designed by Austin Design Associates and made by Decor Design Centre, is covered in Lucida Greystone leather.

6 ON DISPLAY Shelves made from the same material as the floorboards – Architect Collection American oak-veneer boards in French Grey from Royal Oak – fill the void between the fireplace and side windows. Books, photos and other mementos look great in this open display – more so because the shelves appear to float thanks to their concealed supports, which were installed when the frame for the extension went up. A plinth/bench seat runs the length of the room, anchoring the chimneybreast, which is clad in Random Ashlar from Eco Outdoor.

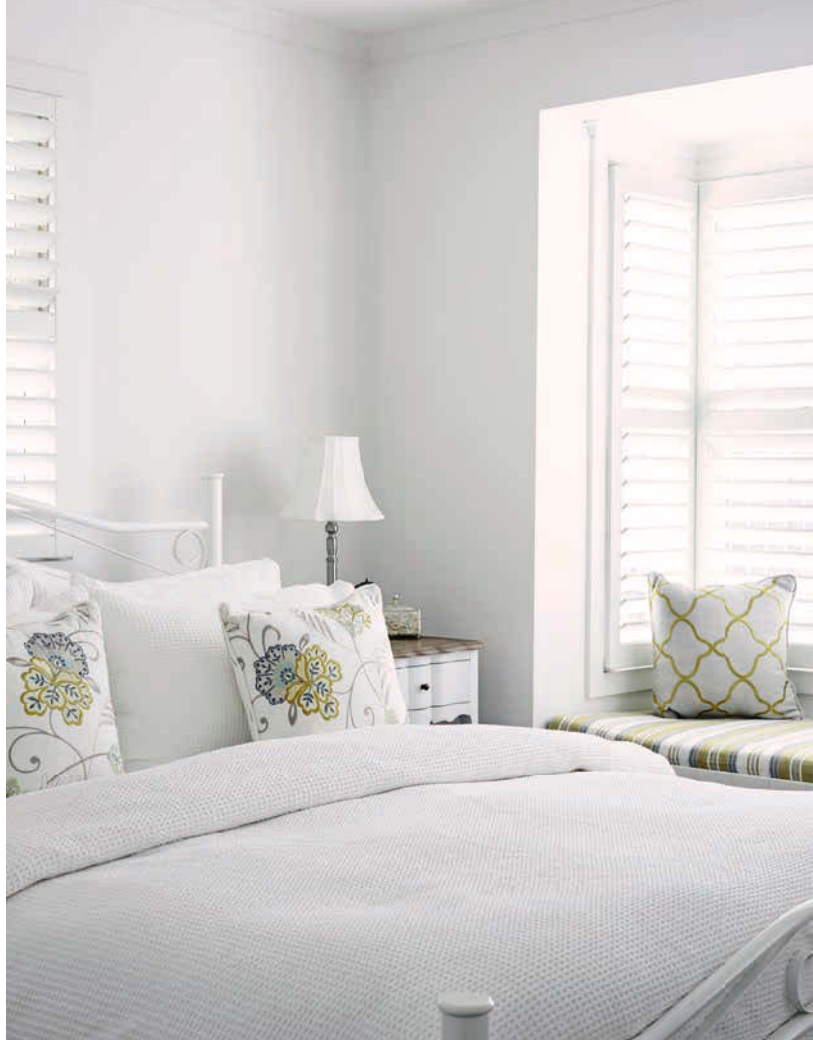


For Where to Buy, see page 196.



7 COOK OUT Glass and timber swing doors lead from the dining area to a protected outdoor kitchen that is well used, year-round. Bluestone tiles line the rear wall. The Electrolux built-in barbecue and Schweigen rangehood are both from Michael's Appliance Centre. Franke Kubus sink and Astra Walker Icon Plus tapware from Benton's Finer Bathrooms. Oak dining table, Globe West. Thonet dining chairs. Tripod floor lamp, Temperature Design. Caravaggio P pendant light, Cult. Walls painted Dulux Natural White.

8 TIMBER TIME Wood is a solid choice for family zones; the hard-wearing finish gains a lovely patina with day-to-day use. This timeless combination of oak, beech, and grey-washed flooring is perfect for the seaside location, and natural 'socks' on the white Thonet chairs are a cute touch. ➤



9 STOW AWAY A bay window in the main bedroom is now a window seat, with built-in storage for extra bedlinen, blankets and quilts. A classic striped fabric (Mitra) covers the window seat cushion and is paired with a lattice print (Leyla) scatter cushion, and stylised floral accent cushions on the bed (Bukhara). Keeping within the same palette ensures each pattern works beautifully with the next, bringing balance to the otherwise white room. All fabrics are by Clarke & Clarke, available from Marco Fabrics.

10 PURE & SIMPLE A tall cupboard in the bathroom, finished in Dulux Sea Breeze, is treated to pretty scalloped handles made from MDF and painted Dulux Natural White. The vanity unit features vertical panels, in keeping with the theme running throughout the house, and is topped with white marble. There are plenty of drawers and cupboards, all fitted with traditional drawer and door pulls. The mirror-fronted cabinet accommodates smaller items such as make-up, perfumes and razors. Astra Walker Icon Plus basin set, Bentons. Stark wall lights, Gamma Illumination.



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Melissa Penfold

Australia's keenest decorating eye shares her secrets to stylish, comfortable living.



Prints charming

Hitting the web is an affordable way to expand your art collection. Here are a few sites I frequent to get you started:

- ❖ Natural Curiosities: Incredible prints in a vast array of subjects, including the Tylinek Animals collection pictured above. www.naturalcuriosities.com.
 - ❖ V&A Prints: Beautiful images drawn from the archives of London's Victoria and Albert Museum. vandaprints.com.
 - ❖ 1000Museums: Representing institutions such as the Guggenheim and the New York Public Library, it offers high-quality prints at great prices. 1000museums.com.
 - ❖ Eyestorm: Limited-edition works by emerging and big-name contemporary artists. www.eyestorm.com.
- Once you have your artwork in hand, take the time to make sure it's hung correctly and at the right height. It matters. If you're not confident, call a professional.

Clearly beautiful

Glass pendant lights are among my favourite lighting solutions, and an emerging trend for 2015. One of the coolest designs around are these affordable Bistro pendants in wood and glass (right). Available in three shapes: dome, \$145, tapered, \$119, or cone, \$180. My Brother Albert; (02) 9363 0609.



Top
buy

SIMPLE PLEASURES

Lighten the load of ho-hum rituals and household chores by choosing everyday objects that are beautiful to look at. With a Bobby wicker laundry basket, \$89, even a pile of dirty washing looks appealing. La Maison; (02) 9698 8860 or www.lamaison.net.au.



HOME COUTURE

One of the biggest spring/summer 2014 fashion trends – black and white in sharp geometric shapes – is making its way into homewares. This Hut cotton canvas cushion from Linen & Moore, \$40, is a perfect example; 1800 213 863 or www.linenandmoore.com.au.



LIGHTEN THE MOOD

Want to know a genius way to update a space? Change your table lamps. Papaya's Scandinavian-inspired Alek lamp with timber base, \$195, is an instant mood-maker. Papaya; (02) 9386 9980 or www.papaya.com.au.

MASTERCLASS #1

New
column



Summer style

Interior designer Darren Palmer serves up spot-on tips for smart-casual homes.

Many people assume that my home is as polished as my on-screen veneer; they think that my aesthetic must be so precise and uptight that order and design flows through every nook and cranny of my interior space.

I wish. The truth is I live in bedlam most of the time. At about 5am every morning our old cat wakes our three dogs up, they rumble and wake us up and sometimes all that ruckus wakes our son up. So it's 'game on' from very early in the day. There are toys, hair and spills and other animal-related joys that I won't go into. However my house is designed to withstand this daily barrage as best it can.

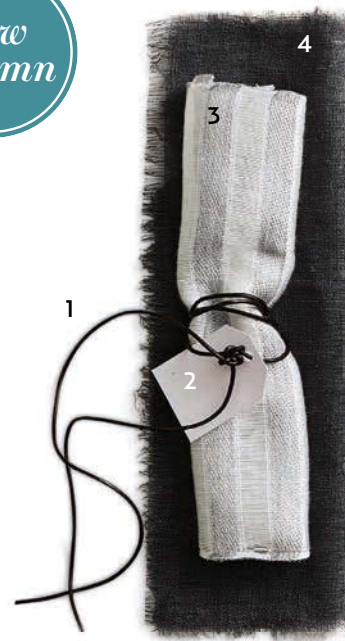
Our tan leather sofa looks better the more wear it gets. Our chairs have removable covers that can be put in the wash. The lovely Malawi chairs that Brutus, our bulldog, chewed as a puppy aren't worth a great deal so can be easily replaced. The point is, I've chosen things for my home that suit my lifestyle.

There's absolutely no sense in expecting every inhabitant and guest in your home to levitate 10cm above the ground, table surfaces and pieces of furniture. I direct your mind to the many perfectly preserved sofas from back in the day, trapped forever under thick, clear plastic. What is the point of having things if you can't interact – and enjoy life – with them?

If your home stresses you out because your family may spill or ruin something, I'm afraid you've got your priorities wrong. Homes should be friendly places that comfort you. They're for shelter, not just from the weather, but from the big, demanding world outside.

Identifying and understanding your needs, and those of your family – hairy ones included – will allow you to tailor the elements in your home to suit and support them.

There are fundamentals at play in all good design and these will underpin any great interior – and help overcome any constraints. In coming issues I'll address some of the big ones, from colour and contrast, focal points and drama, to balance, buying and decoration. As we go through the foundations and principles



Darren used an upmarket version of his summer palette for this waterside home.





The palette

GREY-BASED PASTELS WITH SISAL, WOOD, LEATHER AND BRASS.

1 Sullivans Round Leather thonging, \$3, Lincraft. 2 Tea Rose 24/15 paint, POA, Bauwerk Colour. 3 Weitzner Allegory Sunbrella fabric in Mineral, POA, South Pacific Fabrics. 4 Corfu polyester fabric in Asphalt, \$26/m², Warwick Fabrics. 5 Muro 41 porcelain tile in Silver, \$170/m², Di Lorenzo Tiles. 6 Porters brass hook, \$18, The Society Inc. 7 Brushed brass handle with jute rope, \$28, Hepburn Hardware. 8 Wash & Wear 101 Barrier Technology paint in Watermelon Milk Half, \$41/L, Dulux. 9 Prestige Connector Cap Nuts in Electro Brass, \$4/set of four, Bunnings. 10 Architect Collection White Smoked American oak timber, \$140/m², Royal Oak Floors.

11 Monkey Fist jute drawer pulls, \$20/each, The Society Inc. 12 Pebble porcelain bowl in Dust, \$35, Mud Australia. 13 Torello 0095 buffalo hide, POA, Spinneybeck. 14 Belgian Glacier sisal in Grey, \$150/m², The Natural Floorcovering Centres. 15 Jane Churchill Fontane linen-cotton fabric in Pewter, POA, Domus Textiles. 16 Sailor jute drawer pull, \$15, The Society Inc. 17 Batik Misty porcelain tile in Grey, \$100/m², Di Lorenzo Tiles. 18 Jarman cotton fabric in Storm 7, POA, Elliott Clarke. 19 Wash & Wear 101 Barrier Technology paint in Coastal Drift, \$41/L, Dulux. 20 Soleil Bleu Bakio fabric, POA, Seneca Textiles. 21 Jane Churchill Jive cotton fabric in Stone, POA, Domus Textiles.

There are fundamentals at play in all good design and these will underpin any great interior – and help overcome any constraints.

you'll be able to refine and redesign trouble spots in your home. Along the way I'll share small changes you can make on a seasonal basis to give your home a fresh new look.

Right now, my sights are set on my beach house and what I can do to revive it so it can be rented out over summer. It's a five-bedroom, two-storey, half brick-half fibro holiday let a couple of hours south of Sydney, with ocean views in a place that has the whitest sand in the world. That sand will be the inspiration for the decor, starting with light and bright washed-out timber floors. Easycraft's Easyvj panels will be used throughout to give the interiors a relaxed and layered beach feel, with fireplaces installed to help through the winter months.

The interior scheme will be as simple as possible with a palette of desaturated greys and grey-based soft pastels, like petrol blue, duck egg and soft pink.

Sofas will be a mix of feather-filled linen and rustic timber, with leather for contrast and relaxed low-maintenance style. The furniture will need to be easy to care for as, being a holiday rental, it will see a lot of wear and tear. Washable and removable covers are a must, as are surfaces that can simply be sprayed and wiped clean.

I'm really looking forward to dressing the bedrooms with crumpled and coloured linen sheets from the likes of Sheridan or Aura by Tracie Ellis. I also have my eye on some of the chambray sheets by Sheridan for a less 'un-ironed' option. I've recently discovered cushions by Eadie Lifestyle that have the perfect beachside look – soft and feather-filled but not puffy or overstuffed – in relaxed linen colours.

Floorboards will be oak, its soft macadamia colour being the perfect base. Add to this some large, textured sisal rugs and I'll have a great, cost-effective and non-fussy base for each room. There will be aged and/or oiled brass fixtures and a lot of natural, weathered-oak coloured timber to create that soft and informal feel.

With all of this, the house should feel like the perfect beach getaway for us, and others, to enjoy.

LG promotion

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Please crowds with the LG French Door Refrigerator with Door-In-Door. It's the freshest thinking in a fridge!

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IS BETTER."**

RENOWNED CHEF
AND RESTAURATEUR
MATT MORAN



SLIM INDOOR ICE MAKER

It's great having an ice maker, but not if it has to compromise on your storage space. The slim design frees up internal space and allows clear access to three full-width shelves, which is another great bonus for the proud home entertainer.



LESS COLD-AIR LOSS

Help to reduce temperature fluctuations that occur whenever the refrigerator door is opened, with the Door-In-Door feature. Proven to reduce cold air loss by up to 41 per cent compared to opening one normal door*.

EASY ACCESS

Prioritize your favourite or most frequently accessed items in the Door-In-Door section so you can find anything in a flash.

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The convenience of easily locating your items isn't limited to the top half of the refrigerator. With the two-door freezer layout, no longer is the freezer a black hole of ice. Instead, it's a foodie oasis, where you can organise your frozen goods and home cooked leftovers whatever way you like, such as by type or date.



For more information on LG's extensive range of fridges visit www.lg.com/au/french-door-fridges

 **LG**
Life's Good

*Model tested: GR-D907SL (FD). Based on internal test methods measuring percentage of reduction in air loss when opening the Door-In-Door compared to the full door for 10 seconds. Results may vary by models and duration of opening.

HELLO YELLOW

Evoking sunshine, daffodils and memories of summer holidays spent at the beach, this joyful hue has the Midas touch when it comes to lifting the mood. Whether you have a taste for lemon, or it's a pop of canary that makes you sing, go for gold(en).



1 Stockholm cotton fabric in White & Yellow, \$10/m, Ikea. **2** Bethany Linz British India – Pineapples limited-edition print in wooden box frame (90x65cm), \$895, Coco Republic. **3** Jonathan Adler Stepped Chevron wool-cotton rug (3.3x3.9m) in Yellow, \$2995, Coco Republic. **4** Douglas and Bec Lean ash and metal floor lamp, \$1250, Mark Tuckey. **5** Muuto Bulky porcelain teapot, \$125, and sugar bowl, \$44, Living Edge. **6** Eb&lve Maui rattan basket (40cm high) in Sunburst/Natural, \$80, Zohi Interiors. **7** Linen House Rosie cotton bath towel, \$36, Domayne. **8** Fritz Hansen Ro aluminium easy chair with Kvadrat Steelcut wool upholstery in Light Green/Yellow, \$4260, Cult. **9** Sunburst rice paper decoration, from \$7, Papier D'Amour. **10** Saint Lucia cotton cushion in Zest, \$45, Rapee. **11** Wattle linen cushion, \$145, Bonnie and Neil. [For Where to Buy, see page 196.](#)



FREE SPIRIT

Departing from convention, boho style takes the road less travelled, layering natural, ethnic and vintage elements for a carefree effect. Cushy textures, organic forms and delightfully unexpected patterns are key to its laidback charm. Weave your own bohemian rhapsody.

1 Menna Boucherouite recycled-textile rug (235x145cm), \$800, Few and Far. **2** Mini Knotted Egg enamel-dipped polyester rope pendant lights in various colours, \$350/each, with LED globes, \$24/each, Smalltown. **3** Penryth mirror with resin frame (96.5cm diameter), \$899, Laura Ashley. **4** Artsy handmade vintage fabric clutch/iPad cover (21x28cm) with decorative bells, \$45, Dear September. **5** Blue Beauty stoneware teacup, \$8, and Blue Beauty stoneware teapot, \$34, both T2. **6** Sandlines two-tone cotton bedspread in Grey, \$399, Kip&Co. **7** Slouch Couch rattan two-seater sofa in Royal Blue with seat cushion and headrest upholstery in Marimekko Siirtolapuutarha coated cotton, \$895, The Family Love Tree. **8** Cushion made from vintage Moroccan wool, linen and cotton wedding blankets, from \$140, Barefoot Gypsy. **9** Alvaro glazed-terracotta candle stand in Turquoise, \$89/set of two, Risenn Home and Lifestyle. **10** The Legacy Artwork *The Maharaja's Daughter* textile artwork, \$269 (framed), Bowerhouse. For Where to Buy, see page 196.

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melbourne

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INSIDER

news ❖ reviews ❖ design

Daryl Wark

DESIGNER & RETAILER, DU MONDE BY DARYL WARK

Daryl's Brisbane home — shared with his partner and their Lhasa apso-shih tzu cross, Bob — is a showcase for his worldly treasures.

DINING TABLE A Dutch-Indonesian Art Deco piece. Despite its age, it has a modern feel.

CHAIRS Also Dutch-Indonesian, these late-19th century chairs have simple details and perfect scale.

LANTERNS I often place a pair of these by the front door when we have dinner parties. They look great by the pool, too.

ASIAN FIGURINE This fine gent was acquired on a trip to Vietnam about 15 years ago. The glass dome makes him feel extra special.

FRAMED BUTTERFLY One whole wall of my store is dedicated to butterflies and bugs. It's a showstopper and really works with the collected feel I love.

FU DOG, INDONESIAN PIG AND BURMESE CYLINDER BOX Mementos of trips overseas, they remind me of how wonderful handmade things are.

MEXICAN CROSS A gift from a retailer friend. I love it for the intricate detail in the metal cut-outs.

TURKISH URNS These are regularly moved around, and I like seeing them anew in each location. The glaze is wonderfully rustic. ➤
darylwark.com.

WHERE DARYL SHOPS For furniture: MRD Home, Globe West, Perfect Pieces. For homewares: Green Tangerine, Magnolia Interiors.





Mustique wallpaper in Colour 01, from \$365/roll.



5 MINUTES WITH

Matthew Williamson

International fashion designer Matthew Williamson has branched into interiors and released a collection of wallpapers and fabrics for Osborne & Little.

My collections are recognised by the signature use of print, embellishment and colour. They often reflect a refined yet spirited sense of glamour inspired by global and artistic influences. Dragonflies, hummingbirds and peacock feathers have been referenced since my early collections and have become motifs of the brand. **I like the contrast of hot and cold colours in a collection,** pairing shades you wouldn't naturally think would sit together, but do. Prints then add another layer. **I've always had an interest in interiors** so it was such an honour when Osborne & Little approached me to collaborate.

I was really excited to translate my design signatures for interiors, pairing this with the savoir faire and craftsmanship that Osborne & Little is known for. **In fashion we focus on form, fit and movement.** Designing for interiors is more static, so you have to take into account the effect a print would have spatially. **Available from Seneca Textiles; (03) 9529 2788 or www.senecatextiles.com.**

CLEAR WINNER: HIGH-FASHION ITEMS AND COLLECTABLES MINGLE AT THE NEW ADELAIDE SHOWROOM OF FURNITURE BRAND KARTELL. HOT FOOT IT TO FROME STREET FOR A LOOK. WWW.KARTELL.COM.

COOL GREYS

The fastest interiors refresh is a new paint colour. The 2015 palette from Haymes Paint embraces elegant greys for a comfortable yet stylish look. Colour shown is Organic 1. www.haymespaint.com.au.



OUT OF THIS WORLD

Reminiscent of the "striking architecture and enduring strength of the Colosseum", this piece from Greg Natale's new collection for Worlds Away has caught our eye. Gold leaf side table with bevelled glass, \$1990; www.gregnataleforworldsaway.com.au.



Ceramic art

In a dreamy palette of chalky greys and blues, Australian design brand Bú's latest collaboration with ceramic artist Tania Rollond is highly covetable. We love the clean design and Scandinavian aesthetic. From \$44 for the small Trekant bowl; (03) 9416 4540 or www.bul.com.au.



Sandra Stangl

PRESIDENT OF POTTERY BARN

On a recent visit, the US-based retailer shared her top tips for hosting a successful summer soiree.

- ❖ To create ambience, use flameless candles and lanterns. "Our flameless candles are one of my favourite items. I have 50 of them in my garden at home. They're battery-operated, on timers and every evening at 7pm my garden starts glowing. They last all summer."
- ❖ Layer from the ground up. "I think layering rugs when you're outside is a must-do. We have a great range of natural rugs to give an earthy, textured base note to your outdoor setting, plus a range of all-weather rugs."
- ❖ Mix colours and patterns. "When entertaining outdoors, you can be bolder with colours. Blues are a favourite in Australia, so mix and match blues, turquoises and whites. You could also throw in some warmer tones. We have a lot of ready mixes so you can't go wrong."
- ❖ Create intimacy. "Entertaining is all about connecting with people, so position your furniture to help with that. I like seating arrangements that lend themselves to conversation — use a couple of lower lounge seats with smaller drum outdoor coffee tables."
- ❖ Set an interesting table. "Choose a runner in a fun fabric, then use something like woven placemats and mix-and-match plates. Put something natural on the table, add candles and a fabulous centrepiece."



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The Lemon Tree Home and Gift Store

Quality products for all your kitchen and living needs. Shop the basics, including dinnerware, bowls and baskets, plus picnic and outdoor-entertaining wares. Shop 13, Dunsborough Centrepoint, 55 Dunn Bay Road, (08) 9759 1221.

Mile Homewares

A stylish boutique with a select range of coffee-table books, unique prints, candles, gifts and designer clothes. Shop 2 Dunsborough Village Shopping Centre, Naturaliste Terrace, (08) 9759 1186.

Tatu Homewear

An eclectic mix of homewares from around the globe, including Japanese sake sets, Mexican rugs, metallic Turkish vessels and candleholders. Shop 20

Dunsborough Centrepoint

Shopping Centre, 55 Dunn Bay Road, (08) 9756 7211.

Corrynne's Natural Soaps

Offers an extensive range of soaps and body products scented with fresh, floral tones and natural ingredients. You can even pick up soaps for your pooch! 86b Commonage Road, (08) 9759 1419.

Zest Flowers

Market-style flowers of wild and wonderful species to cater for any occasion. Shop 3/237 Naturaliste Terrace (Fusion Blue), 0418 942 738.

Empire Homewares

Contemporary furniture designed locally and internationally, from beach-style gems and elegant wooden pieces to chairs in woven leather. 58 Dunn Bay Road, (08) 9755 3501.

Yallingup Coffee

Roasting Company

Locally produced coffee in rich and velvety blends. Take some home or enjoy an espresso on site with a selection of fresh pastries. Shop 7b/233 Naturaliste Terrace, (08) 9755 9025.

Design moment

TUPPERWARE

An innovative design and novel party plan sealed this brand's success, writes Chris Pearson.

Behind closed curtains in a home in Camberwell, Victoria, one night in 1961, a party was in full swing. A dozen women, drinking tea and nibbling sandwiches, were gathered around a woman opening and closing neatly stacked storage containers. She invited her audience to do the same. But they were lifting the lid on more than containers. They were pioneers in a global phenomenon, because this was Australia's first Tupperware party.

In the early 1940s, US inventor Earl Tupper was experimenting with purified by-products of the burgeoning plastics industry. The result was a light, flexible material, moulded into stackable, airtight containers that would keep food fresh for longer. This was facilitated by a 'burping' seal, later patented, which expelled air as you closed the lid. The new containers were perfect for the refrigerators finding their way into US households.

In 1946 Tupper introduced his products to retail stores... where they languished on the shelves. Enter an entrepreneurial woman named Brownie Wise. She believed the public had to be shown how the products worked. In the early '50s she began selling Tupperware through home parties. In the postwar US, when women were tied to the kitchen, she found no shortage of recruits. The party became the sole means of distribution, while Brownie became a celebrity.

Melbourne couple Craig and Mary Paton were in the US in the late 1950s

when they met Tupperware president Hamer Wilson, who invited them to a sales party. Impressed, Mary offered to stage one Down Under.

Back home, her guests pored over the array of Wonderlier bowls and lidded Bell tumblers, then mainstays of the Tupperware pantry. Convenient and durable, they proved to be instant hits.

The product line changed little in the 1960s, apart from new colours. In the '70s, canisters in orange, mustard and jungle green, with decorative foil motifs, became de rigueur. Heat-and-eat ranges responded to the 1980s microwave revolution. Later the range expanded to include essentials such as cookware, knives and even toys.

Pat Murphy of Queensland sold them all. Now in her 80s, she was a Tupperware consultant for 50 years and only recently retired, after holding more than 4000 parties. The mother of four found the job offered flexible hours and an enjoyable social aspect. "You could have fun and get paid for it," she says.

Today, the focus has shifted from stay-at-home housewives to time-poor families. "Tupperware has moved beyond plastics and storage into areas like the microwave, freezer and fridge, to help consumers save time," says Stephen Beddoe, managing director of Tupperware Australia/New Zealand. Current best sellers are the MicroSteamer, the Extra Chef food processor and perennially popular Modular Mates mixed containers.

WHAT IT MEANS TO US

Tupperware is now sold in more than 100 countries through 1.9 million consultants. In Australia, with a strong social media presence and even sponsorship of the AFL, the company is targeting a very different market to the ladies of 1960s Camberwell. Meanwhile, *Tupperware Unsealed*, a film starring Sandra Bullock as Brownie Wise, is in development. The lights won't be going down on the Tupperware party any time soon.



Tupperware's early product line at a 1950s party.



Versatile, stackable containers from the 1960s.

Foil motifs adorned Tupperware of the 1970s.



A 1980s salad bowl and server.



A Servaller set from the 1990s.



Coastal bowls from the current Tupperware range.



NEW

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NEW

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NEW Lifestyle® 535 Series III home entertainment system with 5 premium, redesigned Jewel Cube® speakers pictured

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NEW SoundTouch™ 30 series II Wi-Fi music system pictured



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SUPERHOUSE

This masterful beach house on the Victorian coast, by architect John Wardle, has earned its place in a wonderful new book. Author Karen McCartney reveals what makes it special.

PHOTOGRAPHY RICHARD POWERS ♦ STYLING DAVID HARRISON

"The Fairhaven Beach House is described by John Wardle Architects as nimble, which was, I thought, a strange word for a house. But when I ask John Wardle to explain his description, it turns out to be entirely appropriate.

It is built on a remarkable ridge of land above the Great Ocean Road on the Victorian coastline and Wardle was determined to accord with good planning policy so that when looking at the house from the road, or the surf beach below, it would not break the silhouette of the hillside behind it. "We had to exercise a great deal of effort as we pushed and twisted the forms, contorting volumes, both inserting down into the earth and pulling up and across various contours," says Wardle. "We distorted the five main chambers until the house eventually complied with this important landform that rears up above the ocean."

Not only did he tailor the form, but the palette of materials used for the house is very much taken from the indigenous trees, plants, scrub and orange and yellow fungi found on the site. Wardle was conscious of creating a controlled and relevant material mix, and so chose to clad the building in a green/grey zinc sheet and to line the entire interior with blackbutt, an Australian hardwood. Bolts of colour reflecting the fungi and the intensity of the sky are introduced in slices – the surprise of a bright orange cupboard interior; a sofa in deep yellow; custom-made joinery in the bedrooms and en suite in aqua blue. These jewel-like flashes are characteristic of Wardle's

TOP The form, materials and palette for the Fairhaven Beach House were guided by the site.

BOTTOM Seen from the entrance, intricate joinery in Australian hardwood twists and folds like an origami napkin.

playful spirit and provide a counterpoint to the sense of warm enclosure a completely timber-lined space creates.

One of the key elements in designing a house on the southern coast of Australia is that the views are to the south while the sun is to the north. Hence the capture of light from the north for warmth and for its visual play with shadow, plus the controlled consideration of the view, are key drivers for the house plan. "The logic is not to deliver one big panoramic view all at once but to carve it up in order to appreciate different perspectives – that of foliage, the sea, the sky – from various parts of the house," says Wardle.

Outdoor space is hugely important, especially in a house by the beach, where the experience is not confined to merely observing the outlook. The north-facing courtyard is walled on three sides to give protection from prevailing winds and screened from the street by dense vegetation. There is also a roof terrace adjacent to the master bedroom, facing the view, as well as a charming and contemplative outdoor seating area off the main living space, hidden behind a heavy fabric wall, which engages with the bush setting.

This built-in flexibility in terms of usage allows for sociability and informality, as a large sliding window wall in the kitchen opens up to create a bar, and links the indoors with the outdoor barbecue area. There is also the option of complete privacy in either of the other two outdoor spaces.

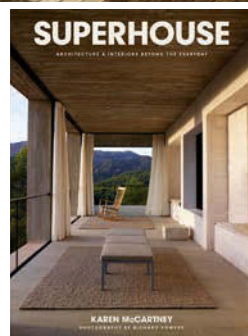
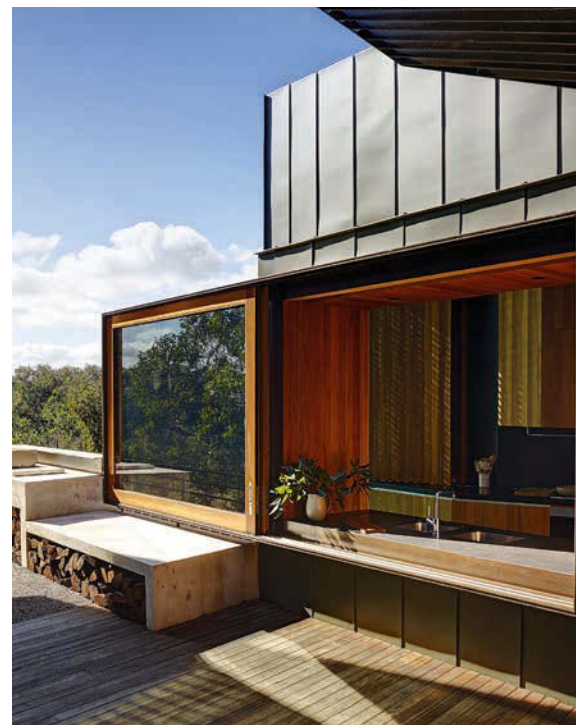
Wardle takes the notion of bespoke to a new level and applies his endless, inventive logic. "As if a folded sheet of zinc has been carefully wrapped around an imaginary tree, this house redefines the art of fold, yet it is remarkably calm and seemingly modest in its geometric expression of house-as-origami," said the Australian Institute of Architects jury in giving the Fairhaven Beach



House a state award for residential architecture in 2013. Later the same year, it received the Robin Boyd Award for Residential Architecture at the national awards.

From the street the house is hard to read and the external complexity belies an internal simplicity in the planning and flow of the spaces. With its large-scale triangulated timber door pivoting from a central position, there is excitement even in the approach to the house. The hallway is a space to move through quickly, and so can sustain the dynamism of visually interesting geometric forms as timber planes appear to fold and pleat. Drawn forward towards the cinematic view, there's an increasing awareness of the complex beauty of this design. Conversely, the living room and bedroom are unruffled and offer respite through the measured, simple application of blackbutt timber lining boards providing an entire wrap.

But back to the idea of nimble. The house only uses up 44 per cent of the building envelope. Yet more important to Wardle is the relationship the house has to its setting. "It is very responsive to light and to landscape. For me, it seems to pirouette and turn both this way and that to capture the views."



This is an edited extract from *Superhouse* by Karen McCartney. Photography by Richard Powers. Published by Lantern, \$79.99.

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84
QUEENSLAND



116
QUEENSLAND

GIRT BY SEA AND FAVOURED WITH PLENTIFUL SUNSHINE, OURS IS A LAND GEARED FOR CELEBRATING SUMMER. RESIDENTIAL DESIGN HAS EVOLVED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF WATER BABES AND OUTDOOR ENTERTAINERS ALIKE AND THE HOMES SHOWCASED THIS MONTH ARE FILLED WITH PRACTICAL, BEAUTIFUL WAYS TO KEEP ORDER AND PROMPT SMILES – ALL SEASON LONG.

Rise & shine

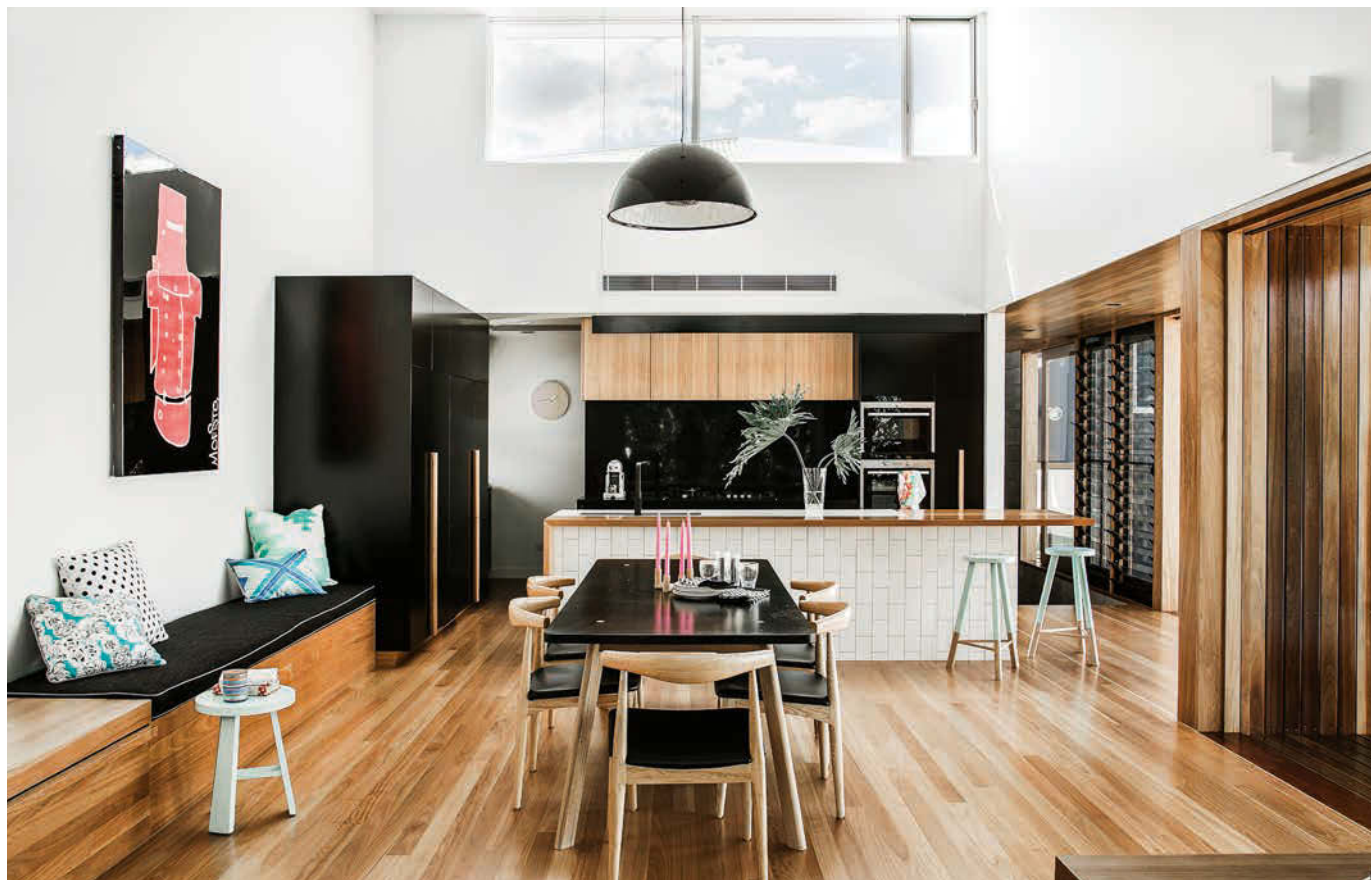
Flooded out in 2011 but determined to stay in the neighbourhood, this young Brisbane family simply stepped their dreams up a level.

STORY & STYLING KATE NIXON ♦ PHOTOGRAPHY MAREE HOMER





BACKYARD Homeowners Laura and Alastair Stevenson play with their children, Andreas and Olivia, in the backyard of their revamped home. Umbrella, Basil Bangs. Acapulco chairs, Acapulco Chair Australia. Beanbag, Eco Outdoor. Fiesta blanket, Dos Ombre. Barstools (in kitchen), Green Cathedral. Synthetic turf, Prestige Waterless Turf. Smart buy: Arrow coffee table, \$425, Space to Create. For Where to Buy, see page 196.



This vibrant Brisbane family home is a 2011 flood survivor, repaired and lightly renovated by its previous owners before being purchased by Alastair and Laura Stevenson in 2012. “We were living two streets over at the time and were also flooded,” says Laura. “We were keen to stay in the area because it’s just beautiful and the water only went as high as the skirting boards in this house. Also, I grew up here and a lot of my family are still in the area.”

With thoughts no more specific than to revamp the house and allow the family to “express its personality”, Alastair and Laura consulted local architect Shaun Lockyer. The general intention was to create an open-plan home for their young family, which includes children Andreas, six, and two-year-old Olivia.

“Our previous home was a new build and felt quite stark, so for this place, we wanted lots of light and something a bit outside the box,” says Laura, an interior designer. “We wanted a great inside-outside feel and to showcase the old and new.”

Preserving the postwar cottage was key to bringing the project in on budget. To protect it from potential flood damage in the future, the cottage was raised to accommodate a robust indoor-outdoor living area, study, laundry and garage underneath.

“The whole ground level is, in theory, floodable,” says Shaun. “The decision to use all those solid finishes – exposed blockwork, polished concrete and solid timber for the door and window frames – was so that if, God forbid, it floods again, there would be no permanent damage. The joinery in the laundry and study can simply >

‘WE WANTED A GREAT INSIDE-OUTSIDE FEEL AND TO SHOWCASE THE OLD AND NEW.’ LAURA

KITCHEN/DINING “We were after a really dramatic kitchen,” says Laura. Joinery by T&T Cabinets (throughout). Island benchtop made from blackbutt with Caesarstone Pure White insert. Custom-made dining table, Green Cathedral. Replica Hans Wegner Elbow dining chairs, Replica Furniture. Replica Marcel Wanders Skygarden pendant light, Matt Blatt. Cushions (from left) from Ada & Darcy, Freedom, Ourlieu and Langdon Ltd. Artwork by Shane Bowden.

LIVING Floor-to-ceiling double-hung windows from Aneeta Window Systems are shaded by wide eaves. Flaunt Design ottoman, Hardtofind. Designer Collection Triangle rug, Armadillo&Co. Retro armchair, Freedom. Flynn stool, Jardan.

Designer buy: Jasper Package 1A sofa with walnut shelves, \$8012, King Furniture. For Where to Buy, see page 196.

This is the life

"It's such a flexible home because of the ability to open up all the sliding doors. We designed the house to grow with us as a family," says Laura. "The front yard is great for socialising with the neighbours and the side lawn is ideal for entertaining. Most of the time we're in the living and dining areas, spilling out onto the grass. The lines between indoors and out are completely blurred."



Dulux Lexicon,
quarter strength
(interior,
throughout)

Dulux Klavier
(kitchen joinery,
staircase trim)

ADD A DASH OF

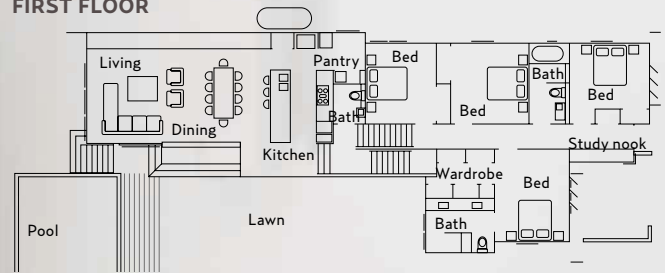
Resene Escape,
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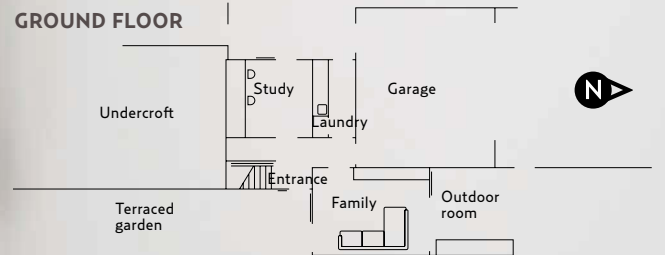
Vivid, almost fluoro,
hues are fun for
families and the
young at heart.

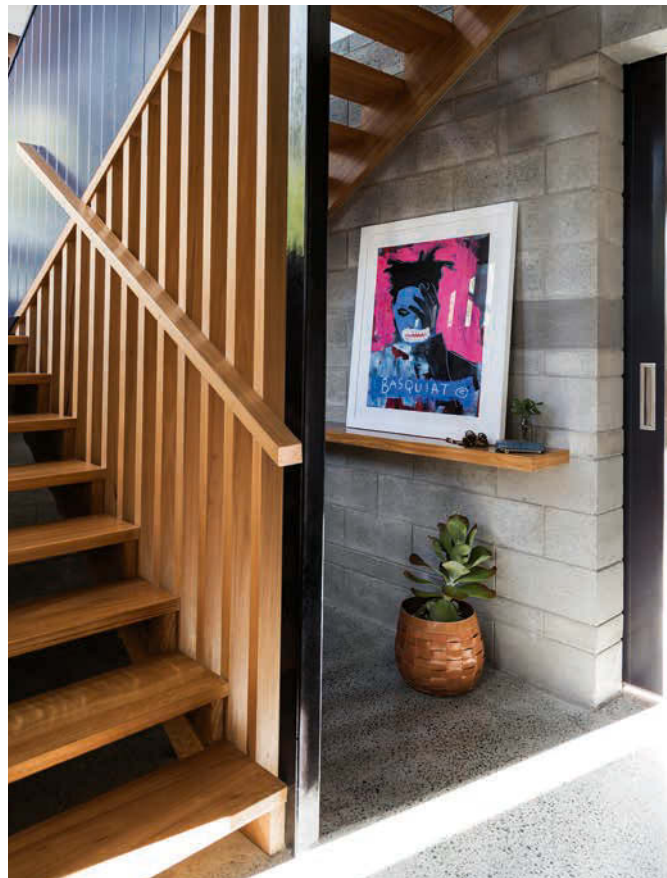


FIRST FLOOR



GROUND FLOOR





'SKYLIGHTS IN THE ORIGINAL PART OF THE HOUSE AND PLENTY OF GLASS IN THE ADDITION MEAN WE GET SUN ALL DAY.' LAURA

ANDREAS' BEDROOM Forgiving as well as stylish, charcoal is a great colour choice for children's rooms. Bunks, Domayne. Design House Stockholm floor lamp, Life Interiors. Side table, Kova Lifestyle. Magis Puppy stool/sculpture, Top3 by Design. Condo Plush carpet in Raven, Godfrey Hirst Carpets (throughout).

FOYER A handy shelf by the front door is simply dressed with a Jean-Michel Basquiat art print from Jamieson's Home & Fashion.

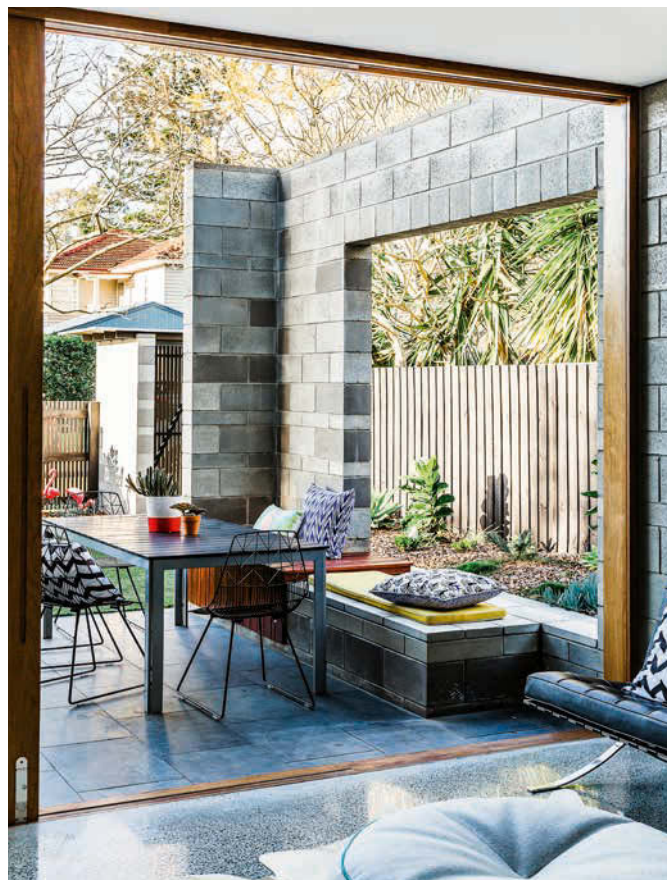
ENSUITE "The materials palette is simple but the room feels so luxurious," says Laura. Slate tiles, Eco Outdoor. White ceramic tiles, Parrella Tiles. Frosted louvres, G. James Glass & Aluminium. Print from Blacklist.

MAIN BEDROOM The artwork by Shane Bowden was the starting point for the bedroom's colour scheme. Side table, Freedom. Lamp, Target. Bedlinen, Country Road (discontinued).

Smart buy: Dasch king-size upholstered bed, from \$1199, Domayne.

For Where to Buy, see page 196. ➤





◀ be unscrewed and moved to safety with the furniture and the whole level hosed out.”

A powder room is tucked under the stairs that connect the ground floor with the raised cottage, where four bedrooms, two bathrooms and a study nook occupy the original footprint. A pavilion with open-plan living/dining/kitchen and butler’s pantry was built at the rear.

“Because the home is in a flood zone, the challenge was to address the new planning regulations yet ensure the house felt connected to the ground,” says Shaun. “By raising the cottage to the minimum required height and then using imported fill to build a terraced garden, we were able to create that indoor-outdoor living experience. Getting rid of fill is expensive, so we were able to pick it up for nothing from other sites. The pool forms one retaining wall and the terraced steps the other, making it a very economical way of recontouring the land.”

Shaun’s signature materials palette – timber, black and white – provided the perfect backdrop for Laura and Alastair to add their own colour and personality. “Because we have such a dramatic palette in the architecture, we wanted to embrace colour and pattern in the furniture, art and soft furnishings,” says Laura. “Our style is quite colourful and contemporary – we just choose things that we love, which I think is important in a home. You have to love living in it. And we do.”

Architect: Shaun Lockyer Architects, Newstead, Queensland; (07) 3257 7288 or www.lockyerarchitects.com.au.
Interior design: Detailco, Chelmer, Queensland; 0435 839 147.

‘IF IT FLOODS AGAIN, THE [DOWNSTAIRS] JOINERY CAN BE UNSCREWED AND MOVED TO SAFETY WITH THE FURNITURE.’

SHAUN LOCKYER, ARCHITECT

STUDY Beckham, the family’s beloved pug, enjoys the cool of the downstairs study. Arrow chair (at desk), Space to Create. Artworks by Lona de Anna (white-framed print) and Erin Flannery (on wall). Heart and pink-framed print, both Typo. Pouf, Ruby Star Traders. Marigold rug, Armadillo&Co. Sliding doors, Architectural Timber Joinery. **Designer buy:** Acapulco chair, from \$545, Acapulco Chair.

OUTDOOR ROOM (this page and opposite) A path lined with hardy, low-maintenance plants guides visitors to the main entrance. Dining table, The Outdoor Furniture Specialists. Chairs, Space to Create. Cushions, Kova Lifestyle. Pot stands, Freedom. Barbecue, Barbeques Galore. Breeze blocks, Boral. **For Where to Buy,** see page 196.



Summer sorted

Louvres and sliding windows make the most of cooling breezes off the nearby Brisbane River. Artificial lawn runs up to the barbecue zone, extending the outdoor entertaining space. "It's incredibly practical," says Shaun. "It means you can use furniture and rugs as you would on a finished surface."



OUTDOOR LIVING This comfortably furnished area under a recycled-hardwood pergola is well used, day and night. Sofa, armchair and day bed, Tribù. Bench, Ironwood Timber. Knotte pendant light, Design by Hive.

ENTRANCE Bernie a rescued tabby, surveys the scene from the front door. Chair, Terrace. For Where to Buy, see page 196.



SHORE LEAVE

With their beachside home expertly transformed, every day is a holiday for this young Sydney family.

STORY & STYLING SARAH WORMWELL ♦ PHOTOGRAPHY MAREE HOMER



The two-minute walk to the Manly beachfront clinched the deal for these home buyers. “We had been living in Sydney’s leafy suburbia when we decided we wanted to be closer to the beach,” one of the owners says. “We took a year-long rental in Manly and within a month we were looking for somewhere to buy. We were hooked on the beach lifestyle.”

Land on the Manly peninsula, with Sydney Harbour on one side and the ocean on the other, is tightly held. Luckily, the community network is also strong. “I mentioned to one of the mums from my children’s school that we were looking to buy and she said they were looking to sell,” says the owner. Upon inspection, the couple knew immediately that the contemporary residence offered great potential as a long-term family home, but the real drawcard was the ample backyard with pool, not to mention the easy access to the outdoors. Structurally, the house was in good shape and suited the family’s needs, with five bedrooms and two bathrooms on the top floor and the lower level dedicated to living, dining and entertaining.

“The house was so liveable and had a great feel,” says the owner. “All we needed to do was put our stamp on the interiors.” She and her husband, both serious design aficionados, wanted to create a sense of casual warmth in their new home, somewhere chic to entertain friends but also fun for their young boys, now eight and six, who’ve since been joined by a baby sister.

As long-time admirers of design firm Hare+Klein’s work, the couple knew who to call in as soon as the property settled in 2012. “Every inspirational image I chose seemed to be the work of ➤

This is the life

With two working parents and three children under nine, life gets hectic in this household at times, but their well-designed and beautifully furnished home makes relaxing and entertaining a breeze. “We can be entertaining outside all day and then, when the sun goes down, we can move inside and be cosy by the fireplace,” says the owner.



LIVING “Direct access from the outdoor terrace to the formal living room gives this house great flow,” says the owner. Sofa in Westbury Textiles Lino Naturale linen. Cleo armchair, Jordan. Coffee table, Globe West. Floor lamp, Gubi. Side table, Mark Tuckey. Hare+Klein sourced a lavish selection of fabrics for cushions. Rug, Armadillo&Co. **KITCHEN/DINING** Mixed timbers add warmth and break up the neutral palette. Dining table, Hermon & Hermon. Chairs, Feelgood Designs. Black stools, Orient House. Tom Dixon Slab bar stools, Dedec. Woven pendant lights, Globe West. Ceiling-mounted JBL Control speaker. **Designer buy:** Well Glass pendant lights, \$398/each, Dunlin. For Where to Buy, see page 196.



Summer sorted

"This is definitely a holiday-at-home house," says the owner. "In summer we often spend mornings at the beach, then come home and open all the doors to the porch. We'll put on music and continue the beach vibe." A handy sand room, the coastal version of a mud room, means beach grit isn't tracked inside.





'THE KIDS' ZONES ARE FUN AND HARD-WEARING, WHILE THE MORE ADULT ZONES ARE ELEGANT AND SERENE.' OWNER

MAIN BEDROOM Vintage timber shutters separate the sleeping and ensuite zones. Shutters, The Country Trader. Quilt, Pony Rider. Tom Dixon pendant light, Dedecce. **Designer buy:** Elm Cricket table, \$995, The Country Trader.

MAIN ENSUITE Custom-made mirrors with dark steel frames add texture and contrast.

STUDY/PLAY ROOM The boys enjoy a little screen time. Desk, Beechwood. Wallpaper, Design Team. Desk lamp, Muuto.

LIVING DETAIL Intimate islands of retreat have been created within the large central living space. Armchair, Stylecraft. Side tables, Anibou. Etching (on shelf) by Peter Hickey. *Honey Ant Dreaming* artwork by Adam Gibbs Tjapaltarri. **For Where to Buy, see page 196.** ➤



◀ Hare+Klein,” says the owner. “With my husband and me commuting to the city, and a third child on the way, we were too busy to manage the interior design ourselves so we went straight to the experts.”

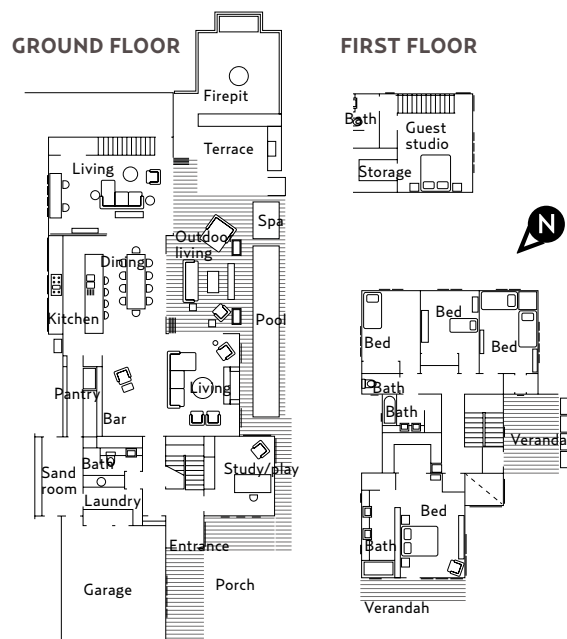
For Hare+Klein, it marked the first time the team had been given a visual brief via Pinterest. “The couple had built their Pinterest boards independently of each other and fortunately they chose many similar, and some identical, images,” says interior designer Meryl Hare, who led the project. “We developed a beach-inspired interior palette, referencing the colours of Manly’s foreshore and ocean, and introduced warm hues to create a sense of fun for the young family.”

The design process took almost a year and the result redefines beachside chic. Floorboards were stripped back and recycled timber introduced into the kitchen to break up the neutral scheme. New wallpaper was applied to the children’s study/playroom, and the patio was extended to create an idyllic inside-outside room. Key pieces of furniture were introduced, favouring natural and richly textured materials. An outdoor shower was added to the pool area, which comes in handy.

“In summer, we are at the beach nearly every day, and my husband wanted the kids to walk straight into the backyard, wash off the sand and jump into the pool,” says the owner. “The house works on many levels. The kids’ zones are fun and hard-wearing, while the more adult areas are elegant and serene. We absolutely love living here. It always feels a little bit like we’re on holidays.”

Hare+Klein, Woolloomooloo, NSW; (02) 9368 1234 or www.hareklein.com.au.

‘THERE ARE PLACES TO COME TOGETHER AND PLACES TO RETREAT TO.’ OWNER



Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.

TERRACE A vertical herb stand keeps these keen cooks well supplied. Outdoor furniture, Mark Tuckey. Platter, Koskela. String of lights, Pottery Barn. Vertical garden, Ambient Landscapes. Concrete pavers in Cashmere, Eco Outdoor. **BACKYARD** Enjoying a turn on a backyard classic, the tyre swing. Deckchair, Koskela.

Designer buy: Brad fire pit, from \$1100, Robert Plumb.

SHOWER A rinse off after a swim at the beach is a delight thanks to the hot-and-cold shower designed by the man of the house. The support post is made from a recycled railway sleeper. Towel, Temple & Webster. For Where to Buy, see page 196.

Dulux Natural White (exterior, kitchen)

Porter's Paints Dusty Mule (front door)

Porter's Paints Furnace (fireplace surround)

ADD A DASH OF

Resene Golden Fizz

Let the sunshine in with a jolt of summery yellow.





EXTERIOR (this page and opposite) Occupying just 200m² of a 739m² block, this house is a lesson in 'less is more'. The ironbark-clad exterior wraps around a Queensland bottle tree and an arc of lawn where Wilbur the labrador loves to relax.
Smart buy: PS Vågö outdoor chairs in Yellow, \$40/each, Ikea. For Where to Buy, see page 196.

Summer sorted

"Outdoor sunshades screen out direct sunlight and keep the house cooler," says owner and builder Michael Leake. "The deck area and long table are the ideal setting for summer barbecues." Summer also means lots of beach time, surfing and waterskiing for this active family. "Being so close to the Barwon River, we often walk down there for picnics and swims."

MAKING WAVES

An eco-minded house in coastal Victoria puts this family ahead of the curve when it comes to embracing a year-round indoor-outdoor lifestyle.

STORY JUDY ØSTERGAARD ♦ STYLING EMMA O'MEARA ♦ PHOTOGRAPHY NIKOLE RAMSAY

This is the life

"This house makes us excited to come home," says owner Eliza Leake. On an average day, friends might drop by for coffee, the children's buddies might come over after school to bounce on the trampoline, and the family will enjoy dinner in the airy living room or out on the terrace, depending on the weather. "The living area opens up well to the deck for parties and entertaining," says Eliza.



Filled with colourful artworks and exuding warmth thanks to a palette of tactile natural materials, this home is totally in tune with its owners. It's set in the Victorian beachside town of Barwon Heads, a popular holiday destination not far from Geelong, and sums up the pleasures of living well.

This is the home of Eliza and Michael Leake and their children: Beatrice, 10; Jono, eight; and Henry, six. Designed by architect Clinton Murray and built by Michael's construction firm, it's testament to their vision and skills. The exterior of weathered grey ironbark, with wide stretches of north-facing windows, is shaped in a gentle arc, embracing a broad timber deck and curved lawn. From the striking use of organic materials and the way it opens to the outside it's clear that this house was created for a family in tune with nature. ➤

LIVING/KITCHEN/DINING "A solid concrete floor retains the overnight cool and feels great underfoot," says Michael. Sofa, Living Edge. Cushions, Stone & Grain and Moss Grotto. Rug, Cowhide Rugs. The floor lamp is a reclaimed cinema light. Stools, Great Dane. Original Eames chairs. Artworks by Debra Nangala McDonald (left) and Donald Moko.

Smart buy: For similar lamp, try the Photographer's Tripod lamp, \$499, Pottery Barn. For Where to Buy, see page 196.

MAIN BEDROOM Custom cabinetry in river red gum and hoop pine appears to rise organically out of the tallowwood flooring. Bedlinen, Country Road. Throw, Goose. Planter basket, Livingetc. Rug, Cowhide Rugs. Artworks by Margaret Baragurra (entrance) and Ren Inei (above bed).

MAIN ENSUITE Graphic towels provide an easily changeable fix of colour and pattern. Ziporah towels, Stone & Grain. Basin and tapware, Rogerseller. Artwork by Sue Kinnane.

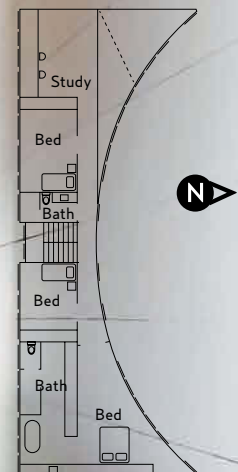
BOYS' ROOM Custom bunks and fun accessories personalise the children's spaces. Throw, pendant light and artwork, Stone & Grain.

Smart buy: Corncob table/stool, \$110, Third Drawer Down.

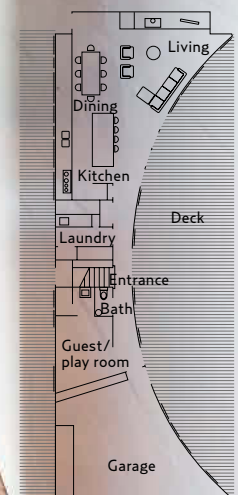
CUBBYHOUSE Beatrice, Henry and Jono in the outdoor play space, which their father made from an old boat. "It's a hit with the kids," says Michael. For Where to Buy, see page 196.



FIRST FLOOR



GROUND FLOOR





◀ The curved form provides privacy from the street, captures sunlight throughout the day and allows Eliza and Michael to keep an eye on their children easily. “From nearly every room we can see the outdoors and connect with the kids playing in the garden,” says Michael. “We love being outside, so we wanted the house to open up to the outdoors as much as possible.”

“Eliza and I both grew up in regional Victoria in farm environments,” he says, explaining the family’s love of the outdoors. “We all ride motorbikes, we waterski in summer and we visit the nearby Otway Ranges as often as possible. This year, we’re heading off on a trip across the top of Australia in an old military Land Rover.”

“This is a house that allows you to interact with, and observe, the environment at all times,” says Eliza. “It’s north-facing, and the large expanse of windows means you get to see cloud movements and the stars and moon at night. The house is sun-conscious and well ventilated, and as it’s only one room wide there’s great cross-airflow.”

From the street, the house gives away little of the surprise within. A path leads across a wide lawn to a spotted-gum deck; the front door is set into the curved wall. Directly opposite the door is the stairway leading to the first floor; to the left is a guestroom/play space and bathroom, and a door to the double garage. ▶





◀ To the right of the entrance lies the open-plan kitchen, dining and living area, a generous space with light flooding in from the windows and glass doors that open up directly to the deck. The sense of space is amplified by a double-height ceiling.

Upstairs, there's the airy main bedroom with ensuite, plus two other bedrooms and the family bathroom. An open study area with a grey ironbark balustrade looks out to the void and the living area below.

The design and orientation of the house blocks out most direct westerly sun. Efficient double glazing moderates indoor temperatures and keeps the interiors quiet, while windows along the north and south elevations provide cross-flow ventilation to carry sea breezes. For cooler months there's hydronic floor heating as well as a wood-burning fireplace. It is clever, practical touches like these combined with the home's strong personal appeal, that make it a true forever home.

"We love it," says Eliza emphatically. "It's creative, it feels like an incredibly stable and solid home to live in, and it never leaves us feeling bored."

Clinton Murray Architects; 0414 898 253 or clintonmurray.com.au. Michael Leake Constructions, Barwon Heads, Victoria; 0418 369 844 or mlconstructions.com.au.



Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.

Dulux Berkshire
White (interiors
throughout)

Dulux Serpentine
(kitchen cabinetry)

Dulux Adept
(cubbyhouse)

Dulux Red Box
(cubbyhouse)

DECK Michael and Eliza relax in a prime dining and entertaining spot. Tablecloth, H&M. Plates and napkins, Country Road.
EXTERIOR The textured timber street frontage affords maximum privacy.
ENTRANCE Anyone for basketball? For Where to Buy, see page 196.



H&G HOUSES

Stepping up

This classic 1950s beach cottage on the NSW Central Coast has been elevated to a family-friendly getaway that's low-maintenance and big on barefoot charm.

STORY CHRIS PEARSON ♦ STYLING KATE STRATTON ♦ PHOTOGRAPHY MAREE HOMER



STAIRCASE Three-year-old Will anticipates a summer of fun at his family's seaside getaway. Coat rack, Camperdown Mews.

BACKYARD Lush landscaping and bamboo-look seating set up a relaxed tropical ambience. Chairs, Sebastian Alexander. Side table, Satara. Cushions in Christopher Farr Cloth Intaglio fabric from Ascraft. Towel, Country Road. For Where to Buy, see page 196.



This is the life

The family visits this getaway at least once a month, but during school holidays they can happily stay for weeks. "We steal away as often as we can," says owner Melissa. "We can pick up the kids after school and be here before dinner." The children have plenty of places to play – close enough for their parents to keep an eye on them but not too close when family members need a bit of 'me' time.

With louvre windows, sea vistas and whitewashed floors, this character-filled weekend on the NSW Central Coast presents laidback seaside living at its best. When Melissa and Daren bought it back in 2013, however, its original charms had long vanished. Serial makeovers had left the two-storey cottage neat and serviceable but rather bland – it lacked that kick-off-your-shoes feel of a true Australian seaside retreat.

“It was a cute 1950s stilt beach cottage, but previous renovations had taken their toll,” says interior designer Brett Mickan of BMID. Yet the location was postcard-perfect and ticked every box, says Melissa, with the beach by the door and a generous backyard where the couple’s four children – Laila, nine; Harrison, seven; Miller, five; and Will, three – could play.

With two bedrooms on each level, the house easily accommodated the family but with an external staircase, it wasn’t terribly functional. While keen to keep the living areas on the upper level, they wanted to enter the house from the ground floor. The layout needed tweaking in other ways, too. A glassed-in verandah abutting the upstairs living room contained a cramped dining area within an airy breezeway.

“It was like sitting at a picnic table,” says Brett. And a chunky, bright-blue breakfast bar robbed the living area of precious floor space.

Working within a modest budget, Brett was asked to “connect the spaces and make it feel functional, cosy and relaxed, but also individual and special”.

“I want a holiday, too,” says Melissa. “I didn’t want to stress out when we came in from the beach, so the carpet had to go. And forget expensive furniture. It had to be low-maintenance, but soft and comfortable.”

Brett ripped out the kitchen and removed internal sliding doors, instantly adding generous metreage ➤

LIVING/DINING A custom-made sofa by H&J Furniture can seat the whole family. Coffee table and armchairs, Dirty Janes Emporium. Dining table, Mitchell Road Antique & Design Centre. HAY green tray, Cult. Green vase, Dinosaur Designs. **Designer buy:** Jamaica pendant lights, \$280/each, Lightly. For Where to Buy, see page 196.



'I WANT A HOLIDAY TOO. I DIDN'T WANT TO STRESS OUT WHEN WE CAME IN FROM THE BEACH, SO THE CARPET HAD TO GO.' MELISSA



Summer sorted

Thanks to the low-maintenance and fuss-free interiors, Melissa and Daren can enjoy a real break here during summer holidays. Timber and cork floors are easy to sweep clean if sand is tracked inside. When these holidaymakers are not relaxing inside their sunny weekender, they can be found on the beach, walking or swimming, or riding their bikes around this idyllic coastal location.





**'I WANTED THE KIDS
TO FEEL RELAXED AND
BECOME ONE WITH
THEIR SURROUNDINGS.'**
MELISSA

DOWNSTAIRS GUESTROOM Stripes and prints add graphic interest. Quilt cover, West Elm. Edward Hopper print (over bed), The Works Glebe. Rug, Freedom.

MAIN BEDROOM This vintage armchair makes a pretty vignette in the corner of the room. Throw, CollectorStore.

UPSTAIRS GUESTROOM A book lamp adds quirky charm. Quilt covers, West Elm. Print, Dirty Janes Emporium. Lamp, The Works Glebe.

KITCHEN Melissa holds Will as they chat with big brothers Miller (left) and Harrison. Formica benchtops in Urban Wood. Tiles, Bisanna Tiles.

Smart buy: For similar wall shelves, try Ekby Valter/Ekby Tryggve, \$20/each, Ikea. For Where to Buy, see page 196. >





↳ to the living area. He enclosed the stairs and shifted the entry to the ground floor, which also accommodates a bunk bedroom, guestroom, bathroom and casual living area. Upstairs is the open-plan kitchen, living and dining space, two bedrooms and a bathroom.

Aesthetically, the place was completely refreshed. “We referenced the 1950s beach cottage look by whitewashing the original cypress floors, installing louvres, adding panelling to all the walls and painting the interiors in pale beachy pastels,” says Brett.

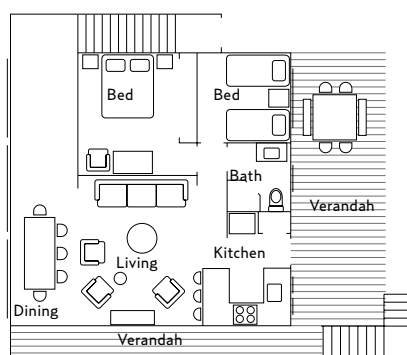
The furnishings reflect the live-in-your-cossie lifestyle. “There is a lot of vintage, to make it feel like the house had been in the family for a while, but nothing super-pricey,” says Brett. Key pieces include vintage bamboo armchairs, a refectory-style dining table in recycled huon pine and a tiki-style sideboard.

But, he stresses, it was important not to treat the house as a period cottage. “It needed to be current, so I included the latest fabrics, smart pendant lights and modern artworks, to make it feel more contemporary.” Grasscloth wallpaper brings texture to the downstairs bathroom while cork flooring, so practical in a seaside setting, extends throughout the lower level. Top of the owners’ wish list was a huge, squishy sofa to accommodate the whole family in comfort, which Brett had custom made.

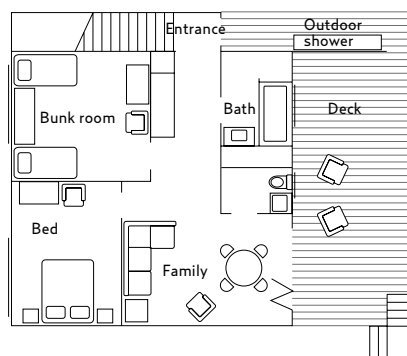
Melissa says the living room is definitely her favourite spot. “You can see the beach through the louvres and it all feels so peaceful. The sofa is so comfy, and we can all sit on it and watch a movie,” she says. “All the family can be together.”

BMID, Surry Hills, NSW; (02) 9690 0053 or bmid.com.au.

FIRST FLOOR



GROUND FLOOR



ENTRANCE Miller makes his way inside through the reconfigured entrance.

CABANA Comfortable outdoor furniture is a sure-fire recipe for relaxation on balmy afternoons. The wooden picnic tables and benches were painted in Dulux Rottnest Island. Chandelier, Mitchell Road Emporium. Yellow pot (on table), Terrace.

Designer buy: Alboo Foxy aluminium outdoor armchairs, \$875/each, and sofa, \$2095, Sebastian Alexander. For Where to Buy, see page 196.

Dulux Grand Piano
(living)

Dulux Lagoon Blue
(stair risers)

Dulux Katmandu
(front door)

Dulux Still (exterior,
first floor)


'WE REFERENCED
THE 1950s BEACH
COTTAGE LOOK.'

BRETT



This is the life

Easy, relaxed living is the key to this house layout. Lori Dhupelia runs a business from home while Sanjay works the long hours typical of a doctor. With two young children and two dogs, life is pretty busy. "The lovely climate allows us to live on the deck most of the time," says Lori. "The flexibility of the layout, the furniture and the fabrics allow the family to do what they need and have fun while doing it," says interior designer Megan Brown.



DECK Eclectic and slightly bohemian, the Dhupelia family's style is resolutely relaxed. Wicker chairs, The Country Trader. Day bed, Kasbah Imports. Bench seat, Samarang Lifestyle Furniture. Coffee table, Eco Chic. Rug, WorldWeave. Dining table, Emma's Collection. Pendants and ottoman in Walter G fabric. Designer buy: Kartell Masters chairs, \$380/each, Space. For Where to Buy, see page 196.

All decked out

Seduced by a fab backyard entertaining zone, a Brisbane family settled into this renovated, no-fuss home then made it theirs with a stylish makeover.

STORY & STYLING KATE NIXON ♦ PHOTOGRAPHY MAREE HOMER

A renovator's delight was never on the cards for Lori and Sanjay Dhupelia. They wanted a home that was finished and ready to move into with their young children Finn, now five, and Claudia, two. "We had just come back to Brisbane from Canada and had been looking for about six months for something close to Sanjay's work," says Lori.

The layout of this 1930s Queenslander caught their eye; in particular, the way the backyard flowed off the living space. "We had lived in a typical Queenslander with the living upstairs and lawn downstairs and found it impractical for children," says Lori. "This place was newly renovated and the set-up – with an extra bedroom and bathroom for guests downstairs and a living/study space that could one day become a family room – suited us."

Having sold most of their pre-marriage, shared-house furniture when they moved to Canada for a year, Lori and Sanjay moved into their home before Christmas 2011 with a clean slate. They sought the guidance of interior designer Megan Brown, herself a parent of young children, to make considered purchases that would see them through the years ahead. "We started with one room, which snowballed to the next. Once you start to play with all those beautiful fabrics and colours, it's hard to stop!" says Lori with a laugh. "Megan would say, 'Do you think you might need this beautiful bespoke valance on your bed?' and I would say, 'Why yes, I think we do need that!'"

"We undertook the project at a relaxed pace, taking our time to ensure the selections made had longevity, meaning and purpose," says Megan. "Lori and Sanjay wanted a beautiful, practical home and it was important that their family's history and personality to be evident in the result." Megan describes the design as "beautiful chaos"; the approach she takes to creating homes for young families living in open-plan spaces. "Our design decisions remained focused on minimising the need for constant order while supporting the daily living of happy, busy children and relaxed parents," she says. ➤

KITCHEN The only things added to the newly renovated kitchen were stools and an artwork by Toby Scott.

Smart buy: Ottava aluminium pendant lamps, \$79/each, Ikea.

DINING Lori and Sanjay have owned the table and chairs for years. Custom-made pendant light in Sonia Rykiel Rue Visconti fabric from South Pacific Fabrics. Cushions, Canvas.

LIVING This room makes for a cosy retreat. Coffee table and metal drum, Boyd Blue. Wooden stool, Jordan. Rug, Loom Rugs. Sideboard, Cromwell (Australia). Artwork, Julian Meagher.

For Where to Buy, see page 196.



'THE DESIGN IS ROBUST YET BEAUTIFUL – IT'S A HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL HOME FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY.' MEGAN BROWN, INTERIOR DESIGNER

Summer sorted

Good planning makes for a relaxed family life. "The console in the living room has two massive long drawers on one side for toys, and we have rattan baskets inside and out for toy storage too," says Lori. "The round coffee and side tables were chosen with safety in mind and you could spill anything on that Turkish rug or our old sofa and hardly notice! Putting inexpensive rugs in the kids' rooms to protect the carpet was another great suggestion from Megan – they are so much easier to replace!"



'LORI AND SANJAY WANTED AN AUTHENTIC LOOK THAT DIDN'T FEEL CONTRIVED.' MEGAN



FINN'S ROOM Megan opted for bunting and an ornamental boat rather than a full-blown nautical theme. Bedspread, La Cerise Sur La Gâteau. Cushion, Freedom. Blue upholstered toy, Cult. Rug, Armadillo&Co.

ENSUITE This luxurious space, complete with a rain shower, was completed by the previous owner. For similar wallpaper, try Blossom by Catherine Martin for Mokum.

MAIN BEDROOM A stylish blend of light and dark elements complements the ensuite. For similar bedhead, try The Family Love Tree. Bedspread and sequinned cushion, Anthropologie. Orange cushion fabric, South Pacific Fabrics. Bedside table, Max Sparrow. Artwork by Norman Lindsay. Pendant light, Rothschild & Bickers.

STUDY NOOK Contemporary wallpaper on the stair wall brings a decorative touch to the study nook. The built-in desk forms a work station for Lori. Kartell sled chair, Space. Artwork by Ari Athans.

Designer buy: Tapestry in Florence wallpaper, \$66/m, Quercus & Co. For Where to Buy, see page 196. ➤





◀ “The house had French-provincial overtones that were evident in the light fittings and existing furniture,” says Megan. “We didn’t want to start from scratch so went for a more authentic European approach. The inspiration was contemporary Parisian apartments, with their layering of very old and very new, accented with an edgy originality.”

Megan applied a variety of textures and finishes to the home, with custom-designed elements to add personality. “To protect them, we chose pieces that could either be kept out of reach, such as custom-made fabric pendants and high-end artwork, or had a history of their own and could take on any wear and tear as character, such as the vintage Moroccan rug and wicker chairs on the deck,” she says. Lori adds, “We like that boho feel... soft and relaxed with lots of cushioning but still polished”.

A blousy floral fabric by Sonia Rykiel was the starting point for the sophisticated palette of dirty pinks, aubergines, warm greys and whites. “I love that fabric and would wrap myself up in it if I could!” says Lori. Megan concurs, “It’s very chic. Layering it elsewhere with fabrics and wallpapers in geometrics derived from traditional tribal motifs creates a unique look”.

Ultimately, this is a robust yet beautiful interior. And everyone is pleased with the result.

Penman Brown Interiors, Hamilton, Queensland;
0414 278 220 or www.penmanbrown.com.

**‘BEING ABLE TO
ACCOMMODATE
SPONTANEOUS
GATHERINGS WAS
A PRIORITY.’ MEGAN**

GARDEN A large soft-tipped yucca tree marks the corner of the saltwater pool. Surrounding it are hardy lilly pilli shrubs. Halfway down the deck is a wide landing, perfect for drying off after a dip. Vintage Chinese elm table, Asian Tide. Lucinda urn (on deck level), Graceville Imports.

OUTDOOR KITCHEN Featuring a Caesarstone benchtop with integrated barbecue and fridge, this compact unit makes outdoor meals easy any time of year. Todd square pot, Graceville Imports. Smart buy: Tokyo wooden bar stools, \$99/each, Furniture Online. For Where to Buy, see page 196.

Dulux
Lexicon Quarter
(interior walls)

ADD A DASH OF

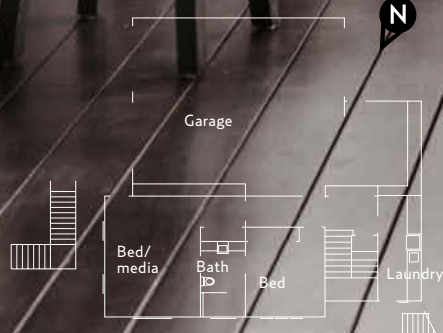
Dulux Teahouse

Berger
Georgia Blues

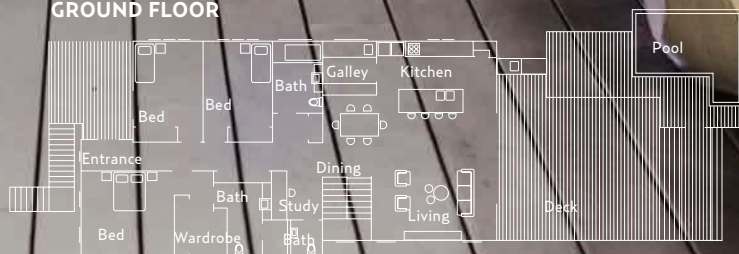
Taubmans
Ooh La La

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timber tones balance
the cool neutrals.

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GARDENS

inspiration ❖ how to ❖ clippings

Photograph by Claire Takacs

An outdoor hot shower, located among towering eucalypts, is a beautiful inclusion in the garden showcased in the following story. The tap has been sculpted from mistletoe. To see more, turn the page...

THE MUSE GARDEN

The Dandenong Ranges property of Chelsea Flower Show hero Phillip Johnson is both testing ground and showcase for his biggest ideas. He takes us on a tour of his pride and joy.

PHOTOGRAPHY CLAIRE TAKACS



Phillip's house overlooks the lower billabong where every rock has been hand selected and carefully placed. Recurring throughout his garden are the lime-green fronds of *Cyathea australis* (tree ferns), which are endemic to the area. In this garden some are 200 years old while others are new.



From a design viewpoint, Phillip believes it is important to have a sitting area in the garden other than the patio. This spot, with its fire pit, is one of his favourites.



"My property, Olinda, in the Dandenong Ranges, 40 minutes from Melbourne, is set on 2.8ha, with filtered views out to the Yarra Valley. We're surrounded by this beautiful natural amphitheatre of mountain ash (*Eucalyptus regnans*), which is the tallest flowering plant in the world. The energy that these trees give the landscape is of great magnitude. We have such a wonderful borrowed landscape to work with.

My selection criteria for buying this property were pretty specific: I wanted to have the best possible soil, high rainfall, a bush block, views and, if possible, creek frontage. I managed to find all these things at Olinda. The soil is a red volcanic or mountain soil, and it's regarded as some of the best soil in Australia. It's unbelievably fertile.

I'm lucky to be able to test out all my ideas at Olinda. I use it as a place where I can try new things and show people what's possible. When people see a backyard like mine they perceive it as being something they can't have. One of the most important things I try to communicate is that we can translate and build these ecosystems in urban environments. People are yearning for this connection back to nature, and you really can build it anywhere.

On a tour of the United States I'd seen Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater, the house he built over a waterfall in Pennsylvania. He designed that residence to connect beautifully with nature. It inspired me to try to build my own waterfalls next to my house. And I've been able to achieve this without impacting on a waterway system; this project has shown you can utilise the run-off from the driveway to create a spectacular waterfall.

My design team and I built the landscape in two stages: the lower billabong and the upper billabong. This was a very challenging site to work on. It's an extremely steep location and it was an ambitious build. What I learnt here helped us enormously when we were at the Chelsea Flower Show in 2013.

There's a 22m level change from the top of my studio to the base of the landscape, so we had gravity on our side. This allowed us to move and channel water beautifully throughout the landscape as the level changed.

In the same way I used to explore waterways when I was a kid, my children, William and Angus, are drawn to the water flowing through the property. They love to play among the rocks and streams.

I'm now in the process of converting our billabong into a natural pool. My ideal scenario is to have a natural pool that fluctuates seasonally and the water is cleaned in a biological way. We're getting there. The body of water supports thousands of tadpoles and a whole range of aquatic life. By creating an ecosystem in these billabongs, it means there's no stagnant water – and no mosquitoes. ➤



◀ You can jump off a 2.5m waterfall ledge into the pool – and it just brings back that sense of being a child. Even my father, on his 70th birthday, has jumped off it! But what I really love is swimming up to the base of the waterfalls and letting the water cascade over my body. It's one of the most cleansing and energising experiences. I also built a small pebble path, which provides you with a reflexology experience prior to entering the body of water.

A beautifully constructed curved boardwalk separates the shallow beach area for children's play from the deep waterhole section. It's an interesting architectural form that slices through the natural pool. The timber ladder leans up against the boardwalk to allow ease of access. I've also built a spa, my Australian version of a hot spring, inspired by the Japanese *onsen*.

We live in a cool-temperate wet-sclerophyll rainforest. The upper storey is *Eucalyptus regnans* and the understorey is *Dicksonia antarctica* and *Cyathea australis* – tree ferns. I've planted many tree ferns here but I also worked around a lot of existing ones as part of the build process. Some are more than 200 years old. And I've enjoyed watching how they naturally propagate themselves if you have the right damp environment.

As you come down through the spiral staircase that is surrounded by large tree ferns, you reach the outdoor hot shower. This has been handcrafted from an *Acacia dealbata* (silver wattle) off the property, and the handle has been creatively sculpted from a piece of mistletoe.

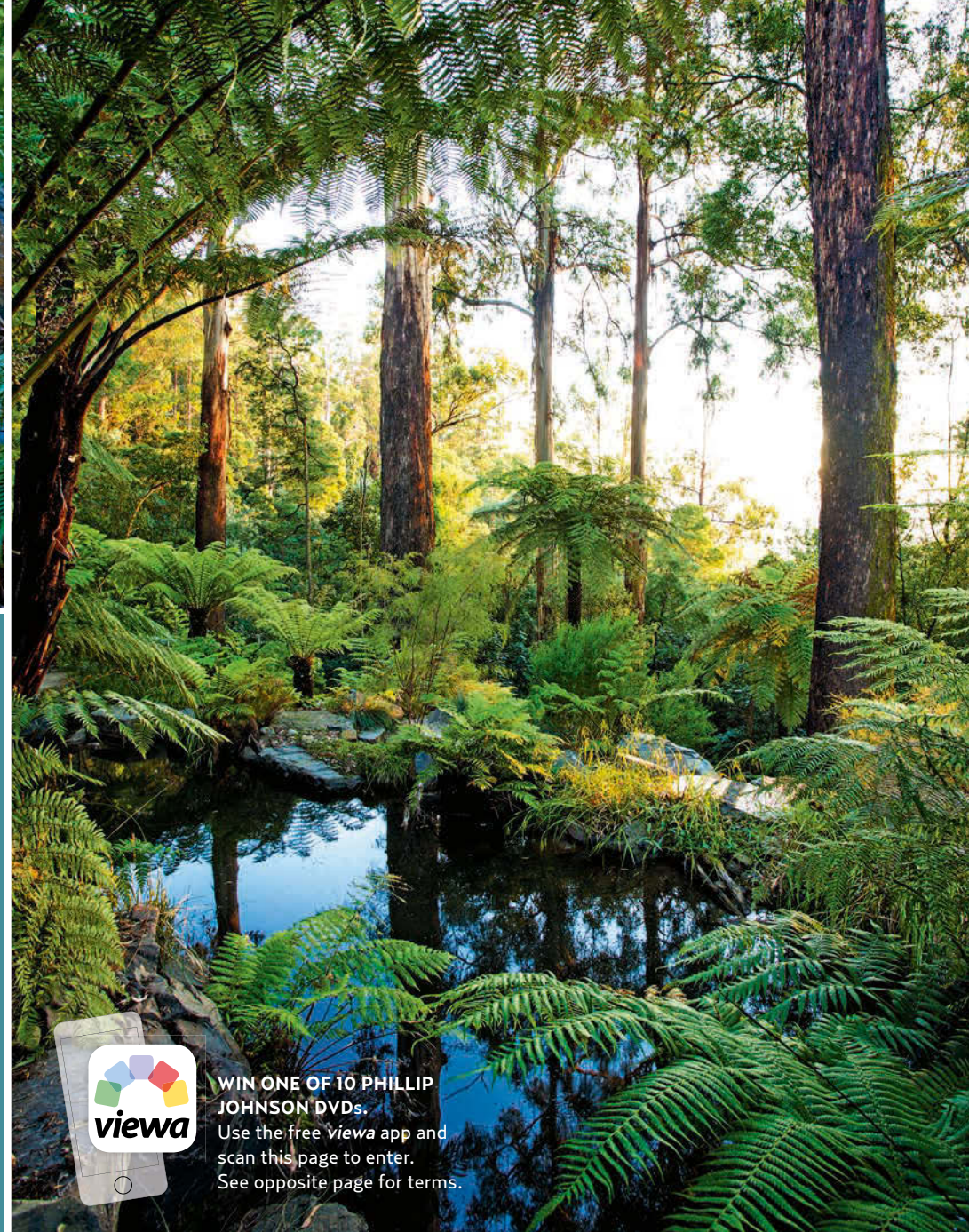
When I first built this landscape I was going through a difficult phase in my life, and building it helped me through that phase. I call the lower billabong the healing pond. Putting your energy into creating something beautiful can help you get through grief.

Olinda was the inspiration for our Best in Show-winning garden at the Chelsea Flower Show in 2013 and I hope that in some way it helped change the way people view Australian native gardens.

What really motivated me to build this garden was wanting to create a beautiful environment in which to bring up a family. I was brought up to love being in the garden. Now my sons, William and Angus, are learning the same thing. I can see how much they love it and that's what creating these landscapes is all about.”

TOP The upper billabong is edged by a number of aquatic plants, including *Juncus australis*, *Juncus gregiflorus*, *Triglochin striatum*, *Eleocharis sphacelata* and *Ranunculus glabrifolius*. **BOTTOM** Phillip worked with gravity to pipe the waterfalls, so that when it rains, nature fills the billabong and the waterfall flows. **OPPOSITE** clockwise from top left *Dichondra repens* and *Viola hederacea* creeping around the rock steps. The greens here are intense, the shades varying depending on the light. The tips of a *Dicksonia antarctica* frond. New growth unfurls. *Persicaria decipiens* grows at the edge of the billabong.

Competition closes at 11.59pm on 4 January 2015. Open to all residents of Australia. Only one entry permitted per person. Full terms and conditions available at www.houseandgarden.com.au/phillipjohnsonvd. See Contents page for location of our privacy notice. The Promoter is Bauer Media Pty Ltd (ABN 18 053 273 546).



This is an edited extract from
*Connected: The Sustainable
Landscapes Of Phillip Johnson*
by Phillip Johnson (Murdoch
Books, \$59.99).



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Design LEVEL BEST

A sloping site presents a rich opportunity, says the designer of this multi-dimensional Sydney layout.

TEXT BY ELIZABETH WILSON ♦ PHOTOGRAPHY JOHN PAUL URIZAR & JASON BUSCH

DRAGON'S DEN

This dragon's-blood tree (*Dracaena draco*) is Clare's favourite plant in the garden; she admires its "sculptural, gnarly and interesting" form. It's underplanted with *Liriope muscari* 'Royal Purple'.

FOLIAGE STATEMENT

Indian hawthorn (*Raphiolepis indica* 'Snow Maiden') forms a hardy hedge overlooking the barbecue area. Walls in deep-hued Murobond Dark Knight appear to recede, bringing foliage colours into sharp focus.

ON THE SURFACES

Matt has used travertine tiles to surround the pool and mark out the entertainment zone. The benchtop is concrete sheeting and the cabinetry is stained pine, both cost-effective materials.

TIGER TERRITORY

A mass planting of tiger grass (*Thysanolaena maxima*) forms a thick screening hedge along the length of the pool and "creates the look of a private tropical jungle", says Matt. "When you're in the pool you're enclosed by greenery, which is just beautiful," says Clare.

FAB FERNS

At both ends of the pool, coin spot tree ferns (*Cyathea cooperi*) add their soft, feathery lime-green fronds to the mix of foliage greens in this garden. A hedge of sweet viburnum (*Viburnum odoratissimum*) along the retaining wall (below) is designed to be kept clipped at the same height as the wall.



Matt Leacy
LANDSCAPE DESIGNER
AND DIRECTOR,
LANDART LANDSCAPES

"This garden pulls you in like the surf on a 35°C day," says Matt. "Even though it can basically be captured at first glance, it is intriguing and inviting, and draws you into it. The level changes make it feel a lot larger than it actually is."

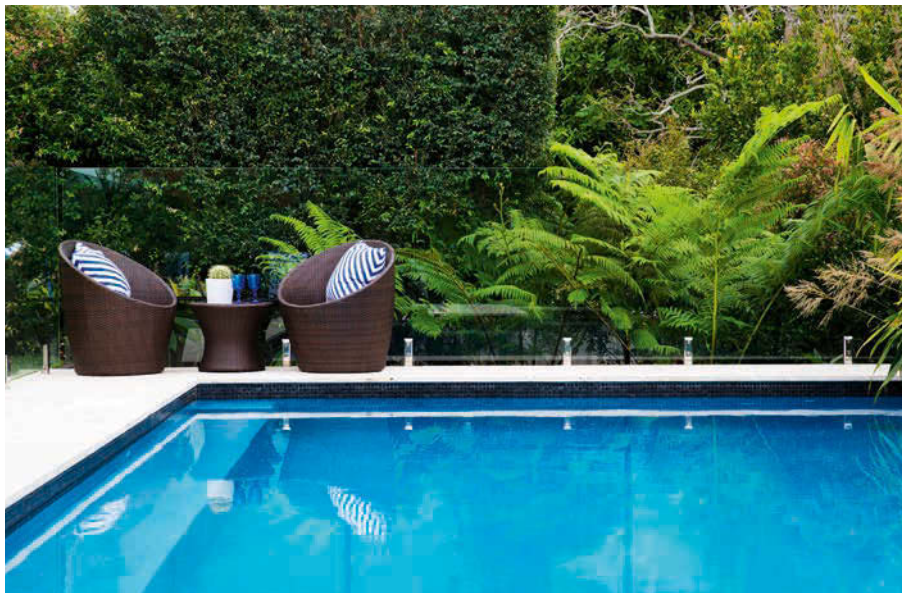
THE BRIEF

With two young children and busy weekday lives, the owners of this Sydney garden, Clare and Peter, were keen to create a private universe where the whole family could unwind. They turned to landscape designer Matt Leacy with a brief to create "an escape". They wanted the new scheme to incorporate a pool, a play area for the children and low-maintenance plantings.

Pre-renovation, the garden was a large 250m² site that dropped 2.5m to the back fence. "The garden was disconnected from the house and there was a patchwork of shrubs and trees," says Matt. In his design, Matt has worked with the gradient rather than against it, creating an interplay of two levels. The top level is an expanse of lawn that flows seamlessly from the back door of the house to the deck of the pool. Both the lawn and the pool deck are connected by stairs to a lower-level 4.5x6m entertaining space, featuring a shaded dining table, bench seating and barbecue.

"The pool is out-of-ground, creating the sunken entertainment area," says Matt. "It's a completely private and intimate space, hugged by plants."





< IT'S A JUNGLE OUT THERE

Matt chose lush foliage plants in rich textures and hues to create this tropical haven. "Clare and Peter wanted an exotic garden, so we planted some exotic species and added a contemporary twist," he says. "The palette combines deep greens with splashes of lime, purple and grey-green foliage to add visual interest." Matt and his team transplanted many existing trees and ferns already growing on the site, including some of these coin spot tree ferns. The hedge growing behind them is a small-leaved lilly pilli (*Syzygium luehmanni*).

Give me shelter

This shade structure, cantilevered over the dining area, is in spotted gum and powder-coated aluminium, with an airy slatted roof. Benches with flip-up seats conceal handy storage space.

Hug it out

Garden beds 'hug' the space, making it feel intimate. Foliage includes purple-brown *Cordyline* 'Negra' (black cabbage tree), green-grey balls of *Tuecrum* and splashes of tall lime *Alpinia* (ornamental ginger). The groundcover is *Dichondra* 'Silver Falls'.

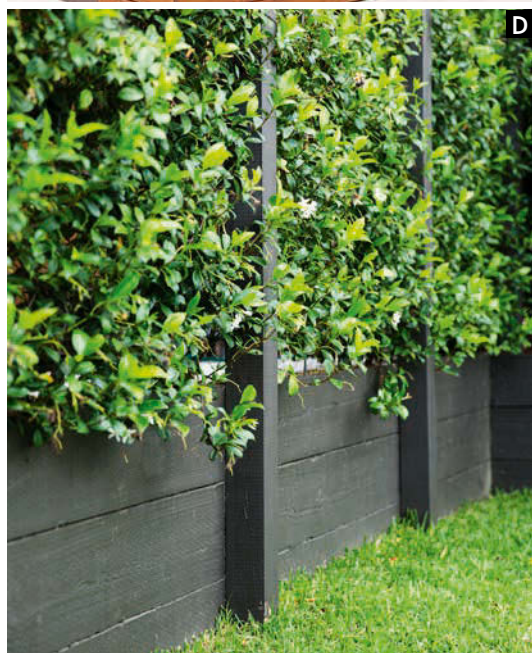
Outdoor haven

"The entertaining area is sunny and protected from wind," says Clare. "It feels incredibly private."

Stone cool

"Travertine is hard-wearing and, due to its density, stays cool underfoot — even on hot days," says Matt.





A *Cordyline 'Negra'* is a favourite of Matt's. "I love the broad leaf and changing colours. When it's young it's a chocolatey lime, then turns burgundy."

B For the pool edge and water line, Matt has used glass mosaics. The interior is rendered in Gemtex, a smooth quartz material.

C Growing as a groundcover next to the dining zone is *Scleranthus bifloris*, a lush, moss-like plant in vivid lime. "It's only 30mm high but has as much impact as some of the larger plants," says Matt.

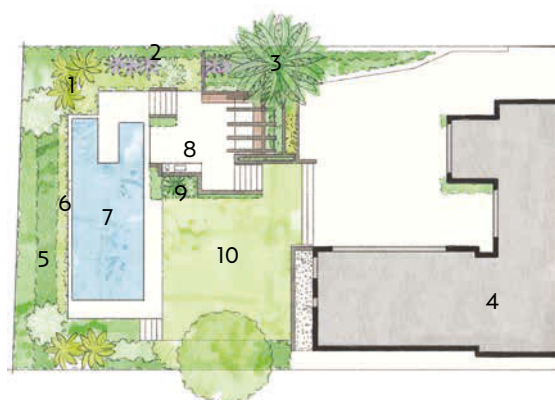
D Matt created a green screen to hide the clothesline by training Chinese star jasmine (*Trachelospermum jasminoides*) along wires.

MATT'S TIPS FOR A SLOPING SITE

- ❖ Sloping sites present opportunities for creativity and bespoke design.
- ❖ Changes of level create interest and, with the right design, can make small spaces feel bigger.
- ❖ Sites like these lend themselves perfectly to creating a really intimate sunken seating area.
- ❖ Use bench seats for storage. They can also perform as stairs and hide retaining walls.
- ❖ A pool can be a great tool for raising the level of a block, providing it meets council guidelines.

This garden won a Gold Award and Best in Category for residential projects costing \$50,000-\$150,000, from the Australian Institute of Landscape Designers and Managers (AILDM).

Landart Landscapes,
Willoughby, NSW;
(02) 9958 0462 or
www.landart.com.au.



- 1 *Cyathea cooperi*
- 2 *Syzygium luehmannii* hedge
- 3 Transplanted palm tree
- 4 House
- 5 *Tristanopsis laurina* hedge
- 6 Tiger grass
- 7 Pool
- 8 Dining/entertaining area
- 9 *Dracaena draco*
- 10 Lawn

TOP OF THE POTS

Nothing transforms an outdoor space like plants. Gardening guru **Helen Young** unveils her top 20 potted heroes.

Plants can soften, hide, screen, enclose or define outdoor spaces, as well as add colour and fragrance. They can even be edible. By using attractive pots and planters teamed with the right plants, you can turn a deck, balcony, terrace or entertaining area into an outdoor space you'll love. The key is to choose the right plantings. Our top 20 list is divided into sun-lovers and shade-lovers, a logical starting point. They were chosen for their good looks as well as for being robust and easy to grow.

A collection of potted succulents and foliage plants forms a medley of subtly varied colours and textures.



SHADE LOVERS

1 SILVER LADY FERN

Blechnum 'Silver Lady'
It's the way the lush fronds are arranged in an orderly rosette that makes this fern stand out. Despite looking delicate, it's quite tough.

2 PEACE LILY

Spathiphyllum

Loved as an indoor plant, this glossy-leaved beauty thrives in a warm, bright spot out of direct sun. The white blooms are very long-lasting.

3 FUCHSIA

These are traditionally shade-lovers but the Sun Kisses range also takes full sun. They flower profusely throughout the year and will tolerate temperatures from -3°C to 40°C.

4 FIDDLE-LEAF FIG

Ficus lyrata

Popular as a house plant in the 1960s for its handsome, large leaves and unkillable nature, this rainforest tree is enjoying a welcome comeback. Tall and striking.

5 CAMELLIA

Camellia japonica

Dark, lustrous foliage is the perfect foil for large and beautiful winter flowers, in pink, red and white. Choose a smaller variety for pots.

6 PARLOUR PALM

Chamaedorea elegans

A petite palm, rarely growing to more than 1m in height, with soft, fine leaflets. It does well in smaller pots and also in heavy shade.

7 PORT WINE MAGNOLIA

Michelia figo

A slow-growing yet very worthwhile large shrub. The dense, small leaves make an excellent screen, and the bubblegum perfume of its spring flowers is a bonus.

8 ZANZIBAR GEM

Zamioculcas zamiifolia

This is the ultimate survivor, tolerating very low light and lack of water, which makes it a popular house



PLANTS AND POTS, ARTFULLY ARRANGED, ARE A GREAT WAY TO INJECT PERSONALITY.

plant. Place it in a warm spot and enjoy the glossy, waxy leaves.

9 GOLDEN CANE PALM

Dypsis lutescens

If you need a tall (to 10m), dense, screen, this clumping palm is a great choice. It's lush and undemanding, although drying winds and hot sun can burn leaf tips.

10 FLAMINGO FLOWER

Anthurium

Like peace lilies, these prefer bright light without direct sun in a warm climate. The flowers last for months: use them as a table centrepiece or for splashes of colour. ➤

SUN LOVERS

11 GARDENIA 'FLORIDA'
This variety flowers for months from late spring to autumn, and the perfume is divine. Keep well watered and fed for best results.

12 BLUEBERRY
Delicious blueberries are easy to grow in pots and have pretty, profuse flowers. Choose evergreen varieties such as 'Blueberry Burst' to look good year-round.

13 GERANIUM 'BIG RED'
Pelargonium x hortorum 'Big Red'
The star performer among geraniums, with bold red flowers most of the year and terrific disease resistance.

14 CHILEAN JASMINE
Mandevilla
Grow this long-flowering beauty as a climber or nip the tendrils for a soft, bushy effect. There are pink, white and crimson varieties, all with glossy leaves.

15 JADE PLANT
Crassula ovata
A compact succulent with great form and pretty heads of pinky-white flowers. It practically thrives on neglect.

16 BIRD OF PARADISE
Strelitzia reginae
Silvery leaves and exotic flowers make this a striking accent plant, yet it's tough as nails. Suitable for hot, exposed and windy spots.

17 DWARF BOUGAINVILLEA
Bougainvillea Bambino series
Bougainvilleas soak up heat and sun, responding with displays of vivid colour. You can choose from a range of colours and heights.

18 IMPERIAL BROMELIAD
Alcantarea imperialis
For wow factor, this is unequalled, especially the 'Rubra' and 'Silver Plum' varieties. They can reach 2m across, so allow room.



THE COST OF TOP-QUALITY POTTING MIX IS REPAID IN BETTER PLANT PERFORMANCE.

19 DWARF SACRED BAMBOO
Nandina 'Gulf Stream', 'Flirt' and 'Obsession'
Great texture and colour combine with toughness in this foliage plant. The colour intensifies in cool weather.

20 DWARF KANGAROO PAW
Anigozanthos Bush Gems series
'Bush Fantasy' is just one of many colours in this series, bred for superior flowering and performance. Tip: the smaller the variety, the shorter their lives.



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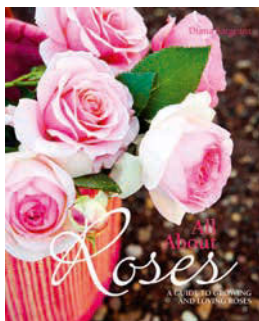
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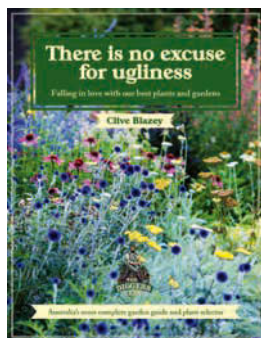
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3 OF A KIND...

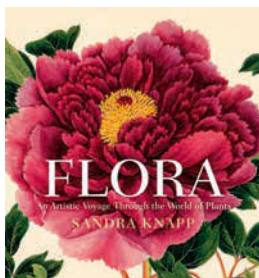
GARDENING BOOKS



1 Diana Sargeant's *All About Roses* (New Holland, \$29.99) offers valuable tips on growing these gorgeous flowers without chemicals.



2 Plantsman Clive Blazey distils years of gardening experience in *There Is No Excuse For Ugliness* (The Diggers Club, \$29.95).



3 Exquisitely illustrated, *Flora* by Sandra Knapp (Allen & Unwin, \$49.99) examines the rich history of more than 20 plant families.



DIGGING
THE DIGITAL

Australian seed company Mr Fothergill's has launched a planting guide app that allows gardeners to check the best time to sow seeds in their local area, using a database of postcodes matched to weather data from across the country. You can download it for free at itunes.apple.com/au.

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Jagged edge

Add cheery charm to your outdoor areas with these decorative Charlie Brown planter pots, part of a new range in lightweight fibreglass by Pop & Scott. Prices start at \$100. Retro Jan; 1300 492 098 or www.retrojan.com.au.

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Gardena's Premium SuperFlex hose gets a green thumbs-up from H&G gardening expert, Helen Young. "It glides along the ground and resists kinking," she says. In 15m and 30m lengths, from \$50, with a 30-year guarantee. 1300 804 213 or www.gardena.com.au.



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Matt Moran - Renowned Chef & Restaurateur

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LIVING

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STYLING SOPHIA YOUNG & OLIVIA BLACKMORE ♦ PHOTOGRAPHY BEN DEARNLEY

WITLOF, FENNEL & ZUCCHINI
SALAD WITH ORANGE DRESSING
(for recipe, see next page)

SERVE GENEROUS AMOUNTS ON SHARED PLATTERS, AND LET THE COLOURS AND FLAVOURS DO THE REST.



Witlof, fennel & zucchini salad with orange dressing (see previous page)

Prep + cooking time: 35mins. Serves 8.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 2 small green zucchini, sliced thinly lengthways | sliced crossways |
| 1 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil | 1 medium beetroot, peeled, cut into matchsticks |
| 2 tsp chopped fresh oregano leaves | 180g persian fetta, drained |
| 2 medium witlof, trimmed, leaves separated | Orange dressing |
| 1 medium bulb fennel, green fronds reserved, sliced thinly | 1 cup (250ml) freshly squeezed orange juice |
| 2 medium oranges, peeled, | 1 small clove garlic, crushed |
| | 1½ tbsp sherry vinegar |
| | 1 tbsp olive oil |

1 To make orange dressing, simmer juice in a small saucepan, uncovered, for 8mins or until reduced to ¼ cup. Transfer to a small bowl; whisk in garlic, vinegar and oil until combined. Season to taste.

2 Place zucchini, oil and oregano in a medium bowl; season, toss gently to combine. Heat a barbecue, chargrill pan or grill to high heat. Grill zucchini for 2mins each side or until browned and almost tender.

3 Layer witlof, fennel, zucchini, orange and beetroot on a platter or shallow serving bowl. Season to taste. Sprinkle with fetta and drizzle with orange dressing. Top with reserved fennel fronds.

TIP As you slice or shave the fennel, drop it into a bowl of iced water to make it crisp.

Crunchy salt & pepper prawns with sweet chilli syrup

Prep + cooking time: 45mins + standing. Serves 6.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 30 medium green prawns | 1 green onion, sliced diagonally |
| ¾ cup (55g) panko breadcrumbs | Sweet chilli syrup |
| 1 tsp cracked black peppercorns | ½ cup (110g) white sugar |
| 1½ tsp peri-peri seasoning | ½ cup (125ml) water |
| 2 tsp sea salt flakes | ¼ cup (80g) sweet chilli sauce |
| 2 eggwhites, beaten lightly | 4 kaffir lime leaves, torn |
| Vegetable oil, for deep-frying | 5g knob ginger, sliced thinly |
| 1 fresh long red chilli, sliced thinly | 2 fresh coriander roots and stems, washed, sliced thinly |
| 2 tbsp fresh coriander leaves | |

1 To make sweet chilli syrup, place all ingredients in a small saucepan over medium heat and stir until sugar dissolves. Bring to the boil. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, for 5mins or until sauce thickens slightly. Remove from heat; stand 15mins. Discard lime leaves.

2 Shell and devein prawns, leaving tails intact.

3 Combine breadcrumbs, pepper, seasoning and salt in a small bowl. Holding prawns by the tail, dip one at a time into eggwhite, then coat in crumb mixture.

4 Fill a large saucepan or deep-fryer one-third full with oil; heat to 180°C or until a cube of bread turns golden in 10secs. Deep-fry prawns, in batches, for 1min or until cooked through and crisp. Remove with a slotted spoon; drain on a paper towel.

5 Arrange prawns on platters, then top with chilli, coriander and green onion. Serve sweet chilli syrup in dipping bowls on the side.



Use the free *viewa* app and scan this page to save our handy recipe cards.

Potato & salmon salad with mustardy dressing

Prep + cooking time: 45mins. Serves 8.

1kg kipfler potatoes, scrubbed, halved lengthways
1.5kg side of salmon, skin on, pin-boned
½ tsp sea salt
½ cup finely chopped fresh mint
¼ cup finely chopped fresh chives
1 tbsp finely grated lemon zest
2 tbsp olive oil
170g asparagus, trimmed, halved on a diagonal
1 tbsp drained baby capers
1 tbsp finely chopped cornichons

1 medium avocado
Mustardy dressing
½ cup (80ml) extra-virgin olive oil
2 tsp finely grated lemon zest
2 tbsp white-wine vinegar
1 tbsp dijon mustard
Serving herbs
1 cup loosely packed fresh mint leaves
2 tbsp chopped fresh chives
2 tbsp fresh baby nasturtium leaves (optional)



SAVOURY HALOUMI AND SUGARY WATERMELON COMBINE IN A SALAD THAT WILL BE ON YOUR GO-TO LIST FOR MANY SUMMERS TO COME.



1 To make mustardy dressing, place all ingredients in a small bowl and whisk to combine; season to taste.

2 Cook potatoes in a large saucepan of boiling salted water for 8mins or until tender; drain. Cover to keep warm.

3 Meanwhile, place salmon, skin-side up, on a chopping board; season with salt. Turn fish over, make 5mm-deep cuts, 3cm apart crossways along the length of the fish. Combine mint, chives, lemon zest and oil in a small bowl. Rub herb mixture over flesh side of salmon.

4 Cook asparagus on a heated grill plate or barbecue, turning, for 3mins or until just tender. Set aside; season to taste.

5 Place salmon, skin-side down, on a large heated, oiled grill plate or barbecue for 4mins or until the flesh turns paler two-thirds of the way up the side of the salmon. Using two lifters, carefully turn fish over. Using tongs, carefully remove skin, place on chargrill plate beside the fish, white-side down; cook skin and fish 2mins or until skin is browned and crisp, and salmon just cooked through. Remove from heat.

6 Place warm potatoes and asparagus in a large bowl with capers, cornichons and $\frac{3}{4}$ of the dressing; toss gently to combine. Arrange on a platter, topped with scoops of avocado and large flakes of salmon. Scatter with serving herbs and top with shards of crisp skin. Serve immediately drizzled with remaining dressing.

TIP Salmon will continue to cook once removed from the heat, so take care not to leave it in the pan too long. Smoked salmon or trout may be substituted for the cooked salmon, if you like.

Watermelon tabbouleh with haloumi

Prep + cooking time: 1hr 15mins + refrigeration. Serves 8.

500g haloumi, sliced thickly

2 tbsp fresh thyme leaves

4 tbsp olive oil

1 tbsp honey

2 cloves garlic, sliced thinly

1 cup (200g) freekeh

2 lebanese cucumbers, peeled, sliced

600g seedless watermelon, chopped coarsely

4 green onions, chopped

1 cup firmly packed fresh flat-leaf parsley leaves

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup firmly packed fresh mint leaves

1 tbsp finely grated lemon zest

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup (60ml) lemon juice

$\frac{1}{3}$ cup (45g) roasted peeled hazelnuts, halved

1 Combine haloumi, thyme, 2 tbsp oil, honey and garlic in a medium bowl. Cover; refrigerate 1hr.

2 Meanwhile, place freekeh and $2\frac{1}{2}$ cups (625ml) water in a medium saucepan and bring to the boil over high heat. Cover, reduce heat to low; cook 25mins or until tender. Drain; rinse under cold water.

3 Place freekeh in a large bowl with cucumber, watermelon, green onion and herbs. Place lemon zest, juice and remaining oil in a small jug; whisk to combine and season to taste. Pour dressing over salad; toss gently to combine.

4 Heat a large non-stick frypan over medium heat; cook haloumi slices for 1min each side or until golden.

5 Serve salad topped with haloumi and hazelnuts.



Elderflower & cranberry ice pops

Prep time: 25mins + freezing. Makes 24.

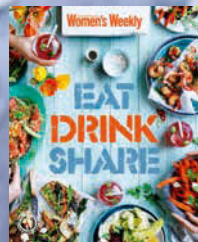
½ cup (80ml) vodka	2 tbsp strained lime juice
½ cup (125ml) elderflower cordial	2 tbsp fresh mint leaves, sliced thinly
1 cup (250ml) sparkling mineral water	3 cups (750ml) cranberry juice

1 Combine vodka, cordial, mineral water and lime juice in a medium jug. Divide mixture between 24 ice-pop moulds (do not fill to top); sprinkle equally with mint. Wrap the mould tray completely in plastic wrap; insert ice-block sticks into pops, piercing the plastic – the plastic wrap will help keep the sticks upright. Freeze 6hrs or until frozen.

2 Pour cranberry juice over the vodka-mint layer. Freeze 2hrs or until juice is frozen.

3 Just before serving, rub the outside of the moulds with a hot kitchen cloth; gently remove ice pops.

HUNGRY FOR MORE?



Recipes extracted from *The Australian Women's Weekly: Eat Drink Share* (Bauer Media Books, \$39.95), available in all good bookshops or from www.magshop.com.au.



Vegan strawberry & brownie frozen 'cheesecake'

Prep time: 20mins + freezing. Serves 10.

Brownie base

1½ cups (180g) pecans
⅓ cup (35g) dutch-processed cocoa
250g fresh dates, pitted
1 tsp vanilla extract

Filling

4 cups (560g) raw, unsalted macadamia halves

500g strawberries, chopped coarsely

½ cup (175g) rice malt syrup
¼ cup (60g) coconut oil
1 tbsp vanilla extract
2 tbsp water

Topping

250g strawberries, halved
2 tbsp rice malt syrup

1 Lightly grease a 20cm springform cake tin and line base and sides with baking paper.

2 Place pecans and cocoa in a food processor and process until roughly chopped. With the motor running, gradually add dates and vanilla extract, processing until mixture resembles coarse crumbs and holds together when pressed. Press mixture onto base of pan using the back of a spoon. Freeze for 30mins. Clean and dry food processor bowl.

3 Process macadamias until roughly chopped. Add strawberries, syrup, coconut oil, vanilla extract and water. Process for 2mins or until as smooth as possible. Pour mixture over brownie base. Freeze cheesecake for 4hrs or until very firm.

4 To make topping, squeeze juice from 3 strawberries, using your hands, into a small bowl; discard pulp. Add remaining strawberries and syrup; stir to combine. Use to top cheesecake just before serving.

Roasted summer fruit

Prep + cooking time: 20mins + 8hrs—overnight soaking. Serves 8.

3 cups (450g) raw cashews
1 tbsp vanilla extract
½ cup barley malt syrup
1 tsp ground cinnamon

4 white peaches, halved
4 white nectarines, halved
8 large fresh figs, halved

1 vanilla bean, split lengthways, seeds scraped

¼ cup loosely packed fresh mint leaves

¼ cup (40g) roasted unsalted cashews, chopped coarsely

1 Place cashews in a large bowl with 3 cups (750ml) water; soak 8hrs or overnight.

2 Drain cashews, reserving 1 cup of soaking liquid. Place cashews, reserved liquid, vanilla extract, ¼ cup barley malt syrup and cinnamon in a food processor and process until smooth. Transfer to a small bowl; cover with plastic wrap.

3 Preheat grill to medium. Place peaches, nectarines, figs, vanilla bean and scraped seeds on a large oven tray. Drizzle with remaining malt syrup. Grill for 8mins or until golden and fruit has softened slightly.

4 Serve fruit topped with mint leaves and roasted cashews; serve with cashew cream.

TIP Use a stick blender to achieve a smoother cashew cream.



Everybody out!

Turn your outdoor area into a cool summer venue with smart buys and clever tips from **IKEA** – fabulous for small spaces or large.

With the onset of warmer weather, the outdoor migration begins. Whether you have an urban courtyard, a perfect sprawling lawn or a small balcony, these ideas from IKEA will make it functional and beautiful just in time for the festive season. Rejuvenate your space with clever protection from the hot Australian sun, compact table settings for summer suppers and darling homewares to capture the holiday spirit.

Small space fix

SMART fold-away solutions easily convert small spaces for multiple uses! ÄPPLARÖ gateleg table, \$99, and folding chair, \$40.



GENIUS

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SOLVINDEN
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SHINE MORE BRIGHTLY

Christmas decorations get a modern makeover with VINTERMYS glass owl baubles, assorted colours, \$11.99/2 pack. Brighten up your world with colourful SNÖFINT place mat, red \$4.99.



H&G FOOD *small bites*



Heavy duty

Made from tactile concrete, these Cross trivets (\$25/each) are a practical way to give an alfresco dining table a chic industrial edge. Zakkia; zakkia.com.au.



Bill Granger extends his reach into Sydney's Eastern Suburbs with new eatery, Bills Bondi. In keeping with the 'relaxed modern' menu, the interior, designed by Meacham Nockles McQualter, has an inviting casual ambience. (02) 8412 0700.

SAY IT WITH COOKIES

Bashful bakers and mini masterchefs will adore the Suck UK customisable cookie stamper, \$25. A sweet way to send a message or to personalise a treat. Until; (02) 9119 8700 or until.com.au.



DISHY DESIGNS

To celebrate 25 years in business, providore Simon Johnson has collaborated with artists represented by Olsen Irwin gallery to produce a limited-edition range of packaging. Find it on olive oil, balsamic vinegar, pasta sauce, nougat, chocolate and panettone. www.simonjohnson.com.



FOR SAKE'S SAKE

The tin used in this elegant Osaka Suzuki Sake Banshaku set (\$166) is said to mellow richer sake varieties; sakeshop.chefsarmoury.com.



3 OF A KIND... COFFEE BEANS



1 The Killer Coffee Co's blend of organic beans, \$14/200g, promises to take 'caffeine hits to death-defying new levels'! www.coffeegalleria.com.au.



2 Espresso di Manfredi beans are now available in a 250g take-home pack, from \$12. www.espresso dimanfredi.com.



3 Night Swimming, \$15/250g, is a new blend of beans to suit coffee with milk, which makes up 85 per cent of Black Velvet cafe's orders. blackvelvetcoffee.com.au.

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SUNNY OUTLOOK

To sip a glass of chilled wine on a summer's afternoon is one of life's great pleasures, writes Toni Paterson.

When the mercury is on the rise, my tippie of choice is riesling. It's the most cleansing and refreshing of all the whites, with pure and focused fruit flavours and a poised, crisp palate. And the alcohol is always at a moderate level. Seek out the 2014 Logan Weemala Riesling (\$18) with its aroma of bath salts and flowers – it has been expertly made with the palate having balance, harmony and drive.

Shaw+Smith is celebrating the 25th release of its popular Adelaide Hills sauvignon blanc with the recent 2014 vintage (\$25). While this wine has always had great merit, the 2014 is tamer and more refined. Lemon and grapefruit flavours predominate, with a dash of passionfruit and a hint of grassiness.

A bottle of 2009 Peter Lehmann Margaret Semillon (\$32) is the ideal accompaniment to Sunday lunch. It is an incredibly complex wine with smoke, toast, butter and lemon characters, and an absolute steal at the price. Let the tightly bound layers of flavour unravel over conversation and a series of courses.

Leaner styles of chardonnay work best in summer. Fortunately, Australia now makes numerous refined and elegant chardonnays, perfect for sipping with or without food. The Philip Shaw The Architect (\$20) is an affordable example of this style. It is lemony-fresh, racy and simply delicious!

Rosé is ideal when the sun is shining. Luna Rosa Rosado (\$15), from NSW's Central Ranges, is made from merlot, shiraz and mourvèdre and has distinctive cherry notes and gentle sweetness. The 2014 Pink Billy (\$25) from Philip Shaw is another excellent rosé and will appeal to the discerning drinker. It has gentle savouriness to balance the bright, sweet-scented lemon and strawberry nuances. Its creamy palate marries well with dishes such as cured ocean trout with fennel slaw and pink grapefruit.

Light, soft, reds can work well in hot weather, as long as they are not served too warm – try chilling them for 30 minutes before serving. The 2013 Mount Trio Pinot Noir (\$22) is elegant, aromatic, perfumed and soft. If you're hosting an evening barbecue, consider the 2013 Angove Long Row Shiraz (\$10), which is sweet-fruited, fleshy and soft.

Don't forget to serve non-alcoholic options such as iced tea, too. I like T2's Smarty Pants (\$22/150g), a blend of green tea, basil, spearmint, liquorice root and apple. Chill it down and add piles of ice, cucumber, fresh lime and basil leaves. Equally delicious is Pumping Pomegranate (\$14/100g), a fragrant blend of apple, hibiscus, rosehip, pomegranate and safflower flowers. Throw in some berries and mint for a drink with a difference. Both will leave you feeling refreshed and invigorated.



SUMMER DROPS

2014 Charles Melton Rose of Virginia, \$24

A multi-varietal rosé made from grenache, cabernet, pinot meunier, shiraz and pinot noir – it has a heady perfume and plenty of berry flavour – little wonder it's an Australian favourite.

2014 Shaw+Smith Sauvignon Blanc, \$25

A classic drop that always over-delivers on quality. Tight, fresh, crisp and refined.

2014 Grosset Alea Riesling, \$36

An off-dry style that is completely divine. The sweetness and acidity are perfectly integrated and the lemon and floral aromas are heavenly.

2014 Vickery Watervale Riesling, \$24

Classic Clare Valley riesling that has intense lime flavours and elegant proportions. Dry, crisp and perfectly satisfying.



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AT MY TABLE

Light the grill, barbecue or open fire and enjoy the flavours of food cooked over coals, writes Jared Ingersoll.



COAL-ROASTED
FISH & OYSTERS



Let me start by saying that the fuel you use affects the flavour of your food. In my opinion, heat beads are great at giving off heat but they're a terrible tool for cooking food.

Heat beads are treated with a propellant to help them burn, which in turn imparts a chemical taste to the food. When in Sri Lanka recently, I roasted a duck on a spit using cinnamon wood... I know which I prefer!

Barbecuing is not an exact science. Monitoring the food is essential, whether you're chargrilling, roasting or smoking. It's not that arduous, but a small amount of discipline when cooking makes eating the meal all the more rewarding.

Whichever kind of barbecue you prefer – fire pit, kettle, grill – follow these simple rules of thumb:

- ❖ Cook over the coals, not the flame. When juices from your food drops onto those coals, a flavoursome smoke is released, giving food its distinctive barbecue flavour.
- ❖ Don't have your food too close to the heat source, especially when the coals are super hot.
- ❖ There is no going back once food is overcooked, so err on the side of caution. You can always return your food to the grill.

COAL-ROASTED FISH & OYSTERS

Prep: 10mins. Cooking: 30mins.
Serves 6–8.

- 1 whole snapper (about 1.8kg), scaled and cleaned**
- 12 unopened oysters, well washed**
- 1 lemon, sliced, plus wedges to serve**
- 5 banana leaves**

- 1** Light a fire and get a good bed of hot coals going – enough coals for an even heat source under the snapper and oysters. (This can take about an hour.)
- 2** Score fish with 5mm cuts, season, and place lemon slices inside cavity. Place fish

on 3 banana leaves and nestle oysters around fish. Place more banana leaves on top and wrap into a parcel.

3 Place parcel directly on hot coals and cook 30mins or until cooked through. To serve, place parcel on a platter and unwrap. Drizzle fish with extra-virgin olive oil and season with salt and pepper. Serve with lemon wedges.

ROASTED & SMOKED DUCK WITH CITRUS SPICE RUB

Prep: 10mins + overnight refrigeration.
Cooking: 1hr. Serves 4.

- 1.8kg whole duck**
- 1 tbsp black peppercorns**
- ¼ tsp pink peppercorns**
- ¼ tsp green peppercorns**
- 4 juniper berries**
- 1 allspice**
- 1 dried bay leaf**
- 3½ tbsp sea salt**
- Few sprigs of thyme**
- Finely grated lemon & lime zest**

- 1** Place all spices, herbs and zest in a dry frypan over very low heat until just beginning to smoke slightly, about 5–10mins. Remove from heat. When cool, place in a grinder or mortar and pestle and grind mixture into a rub.
 - 2** Place duck in a large bowl, pat dry with paper towel, then rub all over with the spice mix. Transfer duck to a plate or tray and refrigerate, uncovered, overnight.
 - 3** Preheat barbecue to moderately high. Place duck on a roasting tray and cook for 1hr (throw a few kipflers in the tray as well for fab roast potatoes). Serve with a light crunchy salad, pickles and mustard.
- TIP** If you prefer, cook duck in the oven at 200°C (180°C fan).

CHARGRILLED VEGETABLES

Chargrilling gives fresh veg a rustic look and a delicious, slightly smoky flavour. Serve with pesto on the side (see recipe).

- ❖ Always use a very hot grill with hot coals and no flame.



- ❖ Before cooking, brush vegies with vegetable oil, not olive oil as this burns faster. Use the bare minimum – excess will drip into the coals and smoke. After cooking, drizzle with good quality extra-virgin olive oil.
 - ❖ Season with salt only prior to cooking; use pepper and herbs afterwards.
- EGGPLANT** No need to salt prior to cooking. Brush with extra-virgin olive oil from time to time during cooking.
- ZUCCHINI, FENNEL, TOMATO** Cut into thick slices and don't disturb while on the grill.
- PUMPKIN, SWEET POTATO** Don't cook until completely soft – just tender is perfect. Don't be afraid of a little char.
- POTATO** Pay careful attention. Too pale and you miss the roast potato flavour, too dark and it becomes bitter.
- CAPSICUM** Cut cheeks from capsicum, brush skin side with vegetable oil and blacken on the grill. Cool on a board, then scrape off charred skin.

PESTO

- Bunch of fresh basil, leaves picked**
- 2 tbsp toasted pine nuts**
- ½ cup olive oil**
- ⅓ cup freshly grated parmesan**

Place basil in mortar and pestle, crush with a touch of salt; add pine nuts and grind gently. Add oil, a little at a time, until you have a sloppy pesto. Add parmesan to bind. Serve with vegies.



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WAYS TO WELLBEING

If you need a holiday but you're short on time, don't despair – here are some revitalising mini-break ideas to get you relaxed, quick smart.

Get out of town

Victoria's Mornington Peninsula has always been a magnet for Melburnians, who swarm to its beaches during summer. But there's a lot more here than beaches, as I discover after three days of touring the region without touching sand.

The Peninsula is the boot-shaped snip of land that wraps around Port Phillip Bay, a 90-minute drive south of Melbourne, made even easier since the completion of the Peninsula Link. You'll soon start seeing signposts to the coastal towns of Sorrento and Portsea. But resist the pull of the beaches and veer into the hinterland, where you'll find an undulating landscape dotted with buzzy villages all just a few minutes' drive apart.

There are about 60 wineries on the Peninsula and the highest concentration is found in the central hinterland near the towns of Red Hill, Red Hill South, Main Ridge and Shoreham. There's an array of gourmet produce being grown here, too, and sold at farm gates or in local general stores.

Not surprisingly, with all this abundance on its doorstep, the area has evolved into one of Victoria's most sumptuous gourmet regions. Five of the local restaurants boast a prestigious Chef's Hat, awarded by *The Age Good Food Guide*. At La Pétanque Restaurant at Main Ridge, we delight over a menu inspired by the south of France, with all locally sourced ingredients. At The Long Table in Red Hill South, we dine on the most sensational six-course tasting

menu we've ever been served. "We are spoilt living here," says Tony Lee of Foxeys Hangout winery at Red Hill. "Where else in regional Australia would you find five hatted restaurants within five minutes' drive of each other?"

There are wineries big and small to visit, from the grand Port Phillip Estate (with famed ocean views) to the small, family-run Ocean Eight Winery at Shoreham, where winemaker Michael Aylward opens the cellar door once a month and offers visitors a tour of the underground barrel room where he makes his prizewinning drops.

There are lots of other culinary-related experiences to be enjoyed here. You can pick your own strawberries and cherries, visit the Ashcombe Maze & Lavender Gardens or check into a live-in cooking school at George's Boutique B&B & Culinary Retreat, which offers such lick-your-lips classes as Mediterranean Escape and Fresh Ocean Produce.

The wonderful thing is that all the fine food and wine available in the region is matched with an array of top-notch boutique accommodation, such as the Lakeside Villas at Crittenden, so you can be indulged in every way.

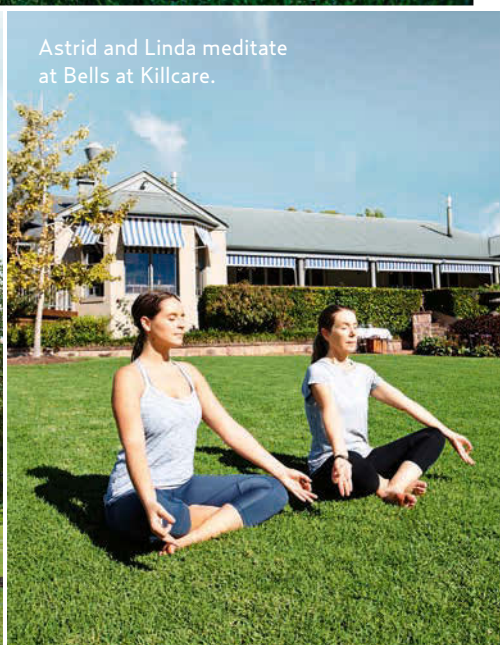
There's also a good mix of luxurious day spas (the Red Hill Day Spa was a happy discovery, Rye's Peninsula Hot Springs was another), artisan galleries (Gordon Studio Glassblowers in Red Hill) and quirky antique shops (Tyabb Packing House Antiques) within a short driving distance. All great ways to round out a perfect weekend escape.

Elizabeth Wilson





CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT The Restaurant at Montalto vineyard in Red Hill South has been awarded 11 Chef's Hats since 2002. Goats graze at Main Ridge Dairy, a farmhouse cheese factory. Bucolic scenes are rife on the Mornington Peninsula.



Astrid and Linda meditate at Bells at Killcare.

Try a retreat

After a 90-minute drive north of Sydney, away from my frenetic city life, I'm more than ready to relax. I've arrived at Bells at Killcare on the NSW Central Coast for a Cleanse and Nourish Mother Daughter Yoga Weekend with my mum, Linda. The retreat is set up so that mothers and daughters can spend time together while learning about nutrition, yoga and meditation.

After becoming acquainted with this spectacular property, we make our way to the spa for massages before we meet the other retreat-goers and join an evening yoga class led by yogini Fiona Pullen, director of Surry Hill's Ashtanga Yoga Space. Dinner is served on the verandah overlooking the garden and proves to be delicious. This weekend, the head chef of Manfredi at Bells, Cameron Cansdell, is serving up meals devised by host and nutritionist Michele Chevalley Hedge, using locally sourced fish and vegetables from the garden.

The next morning, during yoga, we learn to synchronise the movement of our bodies with our breath, using a series of poses that build heat within. This helps us to clear our minds, detoxify our bodies and gives a sense of wellbeing. Afterwards, I notice a sense of calm washing over me.

We spend the afternoon learning about nutrition: how to read food labels, the difference between good and bad fats, about complex carbs and how to make healthy food choices. As Michele tells us, "there is nothing as powerful as a person who feels good about their physical body, mental balance and emotional resilience".

As I discover, that's an effective approach for a person like me, and it's also relevant for my mother, who still has my brothers at home and is always running around doing something for someone else. I feel pleased that we are learning how to look after ourselves, together.

www.bellsatkillcare.com.au.

Astrid Taemets



Dip into a different scene

The sun is shining, the heat rising as I swim lazy laps of the pool at Metropolitan by Como, a serene retreat in bustling Bangkok. A tumbling water feature masks the thrum of multiple lanes of tuktuks, motorbikes and general traffic chaos on South Sathorn Road, a stone's throw away.

The cool but not cold water is instantly refreshing after a morning tour of Or Tor Kor food market led by the renowned David Thompson, head chef at Nahm, the elegant restaurant located at one end of the hotel pool. We'll dine at Nahm for lunch, on authentic Thai dishes Thompson and his team have whipped up with exotic ingredients sourced during our market stop.

Australian-born Thompson, known for his Darley Street Thai and Sailors Thai restaurants in Sydney in the 1990s, is completely at home in Thailand and an acknowledged master of its cuisine. Nahm is an essential part of the Como experience: book ahead to ensure your table in a room filled with devotees.

Wellness is one of the pillars of Como hotels and the Metropolitan boasts a Como Shambhala spa, with gym, steam and treatment rooms, hydro pool and a yoga studio. We breakfast each day at Glow eatery, on tantalising organic offerings ranging from mega juice blends to a nourishing big breakfast, and leave satiated but not over-full, energised and virtuous.

One morning I attempt tai chi by the pool, quivering in the humidity as I strive for balance; a later attempt to find a massage joint ends up an alley with a neon sign and a gaggle of women pointing out a small card that says "no ladies". Happily, there's still time for a

Como Shambhala massage back at the hotel. I'm asleep in minutes, waking loose-limbed, soft-skinned and fragrant.

An exhilarating mountainbike ride through Bangkok's narrow back streets offers a window into local life. We shudder down cobbled lanes, duck under awnings and dodge the backpackers, children and dogs emerging from living quarters that open directly onto the street. Arriving at the Chao Phraya river, we board a ferry, then cycle to the glittering Wat Arun, the Temple of Dawn. Wat Pho temple and the Grand Palace are also passed on our tour.

It's dark by the time we ferry back across the river to the vibrant flower market. Bikes parked and appetites piqued, we snack on local delicacies, senses in overdrive as the colours, smells, humidity and hubbub embrace us.

Hopping between cool, airconditioned mega malls on the efficient Skytrain is a national pastime but I opt for the chic streets of Thonglor, and leave just enough time to visit Jim Thompson's former home and museum. Inside a leafy compound by the Saen Saeb canal, it's a monument to the silk business the American expat established here in the 1950s and '60s. The tropical gardens, local architecture, art and textiles are a heady mix, heightened by the mystery surrounding Thompson's unsolved disappearance in 1967.

Back at the Metropolitan, a last dip is called for, then I dash back to my room to pack and shower – and peel one last rambutan. Three action-packed days, yet I feel grounded and rested, restored by this temple of calm.

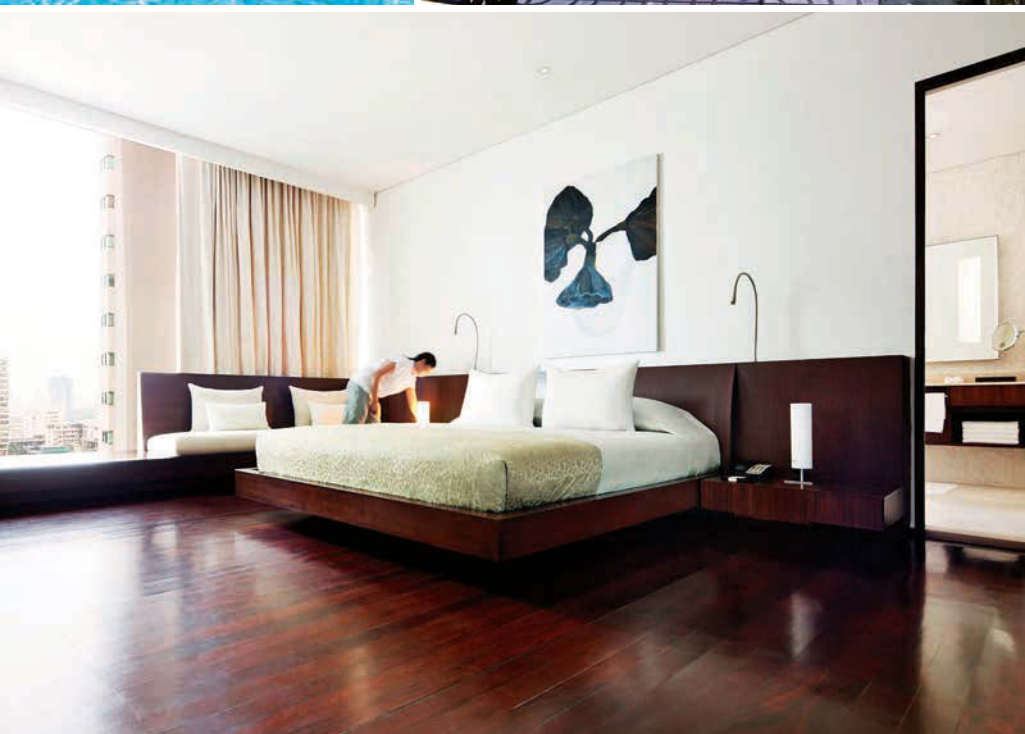
www.metropolitan.como.bz

Lisa Green





CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT The pool at the 171-room Metropolitan by Como, a calming retreat in the heart of the city. Tour the back streets by bike with Grasshopper Adventures. Singaporean designer Kathryn Kng devised the serene and understated interior scheme at the Metropolitan. Coconut and turmeric salad of blue swimmer crab with calamansi limes is just one of the must-try dishes at Nahm.



Photograph from Getty Images (back street). Lisa flew courtesy of Qantas.

Rediscover your city

The doors to my room on the 40th floor of Hilton Sydney swing open and I look down at the bustling concrete jungle below. Just 10 minutes ago I was down there, part of the rat race, but up here, with afternoon sun streaming through the windows, I feel removed from the frantic activity below. It looks and feels different to the Sydney CBD I work in five days a week.

I'm here to enjoy a mini-break and experience elements of the city that my everyday life overlooks, thanks to the Hilton's Be A Weekender campaign, which encourages city workers to make the most of their weekends, and cut down on travel time, by embracing short stays in their own backyard.

I head to the Alysium day spa for a massage before dinner at the hotel's stylish Luke Mangan Glass brasserie. Afterwards, my companion and I have tickets for the Sydney Theatre Company. The drive down Hickson Road is one I've done many times but I view the architecture of the wharf buildings and the area's historical appeal with fresh eyes. I've lived in Sydney for 26 years, yet it's my first visit to the Wharf Theatre. The play we see is thought-provoking and by the time the last act is over, I'm tired.

Next morning, a sleep-in is just what the doctor ordered. After a long bath, I head down to breakfast, then to White Rabbit art gallery in Chippendale. Displaying works mainly from China, it's a new discovery for me. We are introduced to stunning works in various mediums. I'd love to stay longer but lunch beckons.

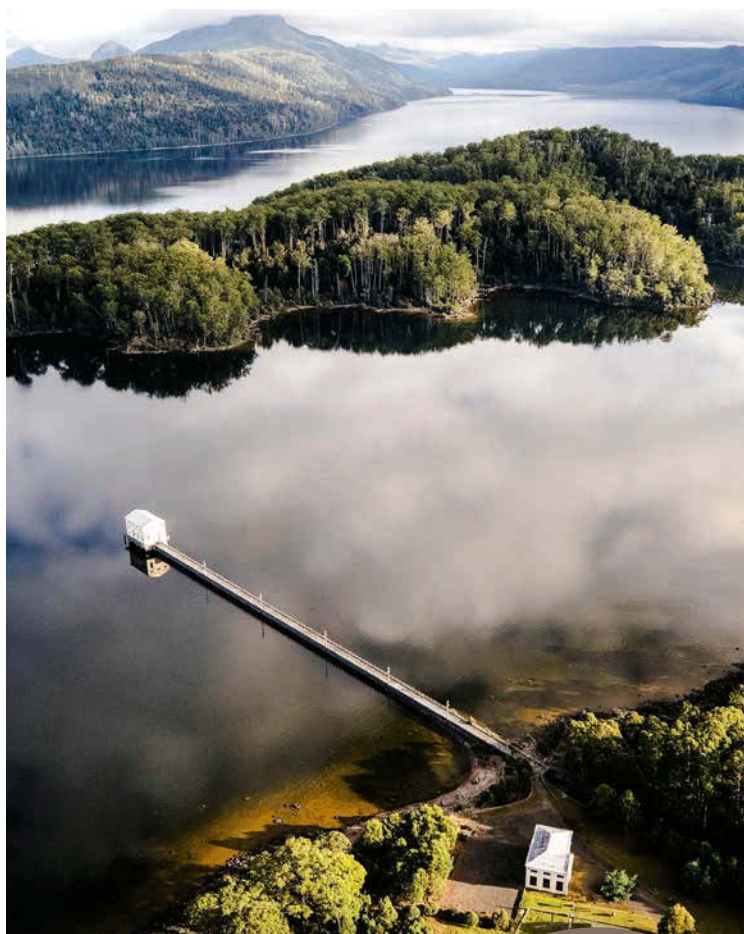
Last stop is the new Cho Cho San in Potts Point, which serves delicious Japanese food on handmade ceramic dishes. Between bites, I reflect on just how much fun you can have playing tourist in your own town.

www.hiltonweekends.com.au.

Ashley Pratt

TOTAL IMMERSION

Putting 250m from the shoreline of Tasmania's iconic Lake St Clair is Australia's latest (and possibly greatest) wilderness retreat. Set to open on January 1st, Pumphouse Point (right) lies inside the Western Tasmania Wilderness World Heritage Area, at the end of the Overland Track, its spectacular setting allowing guests to immerse themselves in some of the most dramatic natural scenery on the planet. The 'gently transformed' Art Deco-era hydro pump station has 12 rooms spread over three levels at the Pumphouse on the lake, and six rooms back at the Lakehouse, on the water's edge. More than 100km of walks, many through old myrtle forests, are on offer, as well as bike rides, drift boats, fishing, float planes and picnics – but we imagine many guests will simply want to drink in the panoramic views of this ancient landscape and share their awe around the communal table each night. Prices start at \$240/night; www.pumphousepoint.com.au.



To mark 40 years of travel between Sydney and Hong Kong, Cathay Pacific is sharing flight attendant Iris Lim's recollections from 1974, when there were but cigarettes and cards to pass the hours. www.cathaypacific.com.au, search 'latest offers'.

We wondered when someone was going to fill the gap in the market for a beautifully scented, sunscreening body lotion. Thank you Aesop, for the SPF50 Protective Body Lotion, \$40/150ml, with its divine aroma of spearmint and lemon.



GREAT ESCAPE

Add a dash of colour to your summer travel ensemble with the strong-as-an-ox Escape bag, \$299. Made of neoprene and sailing rope, this little beauty comes in eight colours including Hot Coral and Bright Yellow; www.stateofescape.com.au.

3 OF A KIND: ACTION CAMERAS



1 Kogan's Action Camera3+, \$159, is the perfect entry-level model at a great price; www.kogan.com.



2 Sony's HDR-AS100V, \$499, has built-in wi-fi and tripod mount plus GPS tagging; www.sony.com.au.



3 The GoPro Hero4, \$549, has an ultra wide-angled lens and 2.7K resolution; www.harveynorman.com.au.



Stocking filler

If you're stuck for a last-minute gift, don't go past *Wild Australasia* (Australian Geographic, \$59.99), a new, sumptuously illustrated coffee table book that showcases the best nature photography in our region. It's an inspiring gift for young and old.



HOLIDAY WITH YOUR BEST FRIEND.

Most of Australia's largest holiday park chain are pet friendly, so the pooch can discover our great country too!

Email guide@toptouristparks.com.au for a copy of the national
Top Tourist Park Guide or visit www.toptouristparks.com.au





WHAT'S ON

QUEENSLAND

Browse for bargains and treasures at the **Rotary Antiques, Collectables & Book Fair**, January 8-11, at Jupiters Hotel & Casino, Broadbeach. www.rotaryantiquesfair.com.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Pack a picnic for **Sounds By The River**, January 17, at Mary Anne Reserve in Mannum, and groove to music by Hoodoo Gurus and other celebrated performers. www.soundsbytheriver.com.au.

ACT

There'll be live entertainment and action-packed activities at the **Australia Day in the Park** event, January 26, in Canberra's Commonwealth Park. www.visitcanberra.com.au.

TASMANIA

Take in stunning floral displays and expert horticultural advice during the **Burnie Lilium Show**, January 3-4, at the Burnie Arts & Function Centre. www.discovertasmania.com.au.

NT

Kick off our national holiday with a sizzling outback breakfast at the **Australia Day Breakfast**

& **Activities Day**, January 26, at the Battery Hill Mining Centre in Tennant Creek. www.barklytourism.com.au.

NSW

The **Sydney Festival**, January 8-26, returns for 2015 with large-scale art installations and exciting performances scheduled all around the city. www.sydneyfestival.org.au.

WA

Look up! **The City of Perth Australia Day Skyworks**, January 26, offers aviation displays, fireworks and laser shows at various venues. www.visitperthcity.com.

VICTORIA

The **International Street Food Festival**, January 25-26 at Melbourne Showgrounds, will celebrate the rich diversity of Australian fare. www.thatsmelbourne.com.au.

NATIONAL

Mark this **Australia Day**, January 26, by hosting a barbecue or attending one of many public celebrations of national spirit around the country. www.australiaday.com.au.

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Video tour
VISIT THIS COASTAL
SANCTUARY, THE
EPITOME OF LAIDBACK
AUSTRALIAN LIVING,
PAGE 114.

In this issue

SAVE & COOK Make the amazing smoked duck salad recipe from hatted chef Anna Wong, page 54.

SEASIDE ESCAPE Come with us on a virtual walk-through of a holiday home on the NSW Central Coast, transformed by interior designer Brett Mickan, page 114.

WIN one of 10 copies of the *Chelsea's Greatest Garden 2013* DVD, the story of Melbourne landscape designer Phillip Johnson's Best in Show triumph, page 131.

RECIPE CARDS A fabulous summer menu from the *Eat Drink Share* cookbook, page 145.

ASK ROSE-MARIE Send your questions to our expert for advice on your decorating dilemmas, page 179.

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GUT REACTION

Evidence is mounting that gut microbes play an important role in maintaining good health, writes Paula Goodyer.

Food allergies, inflammatory bowel disease and obesity are different health problems but they do have some things in common. There's a growing suspicion that changes to the bacteria living in our gut could be helping these diseases to thrive, and that our lifestyle and overuse of antibiotics may be part of the reason.

Humans have evolved to live with the trillions of microbes inhabiting the gut. When things go smoothly, it's a harmonious relationship. We provide the microbes with food and a snug place to live; they return the favour by helping to keep our immune system and digestive tract healthy.

There's evidence connecting the rise in some chronic ailments, including allergies and obesity, to shifts in the population of these bugs, says Dr Simon Keely, senior lecturer in immunology and microbiology at the University of Newcastle. "When you alter the body's microbiota, you give other microbes a chance to thrive," he explains.

Research suggests that similar disruptions to gut microbes may lay the foundations for other diseases. Studies have found that subjects with food allergies, for instance, have a different mix of gut microbes to those found in healthy people. They are missing certain bacteria that may be protective, says Dr Keely. "A US study looking at

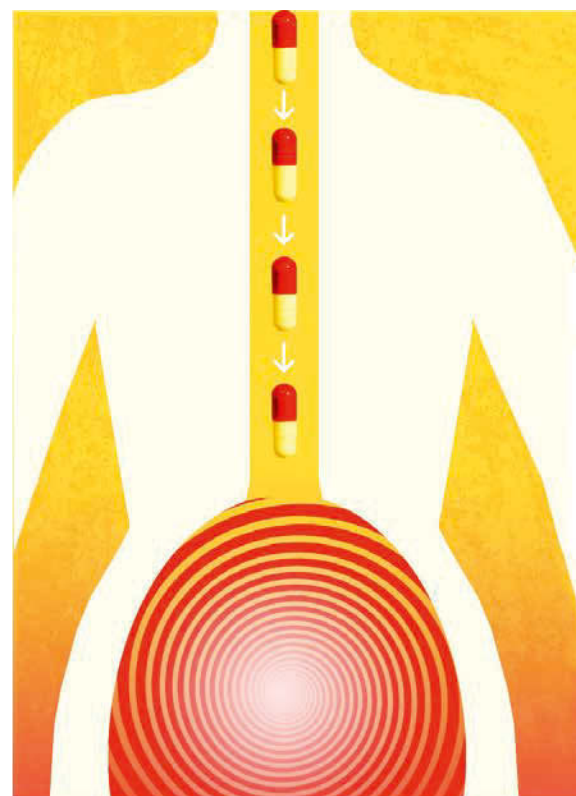
antibiotic use in children under three found that those who'd had three or more courses of antibiotics were twice as likely as other children to develop a food allergy."

Diets low in fibre and high in processed food are other suspects. It's thought that lifestyle factors such as diet and possibly stress, along with antibiotics, may drive changes in gut microbes that set some people up for inflammatory bowel disease. "We think that in people whose gut microbiome is altered, a trigger event such as infection may lead to chronic inflammation," says Dr Keely.

It's not clear yet, he adds, whether changes in gut bacteria are a cause or a result of health problems. "People with chronic diseases are often more stressed or less active because of their disease. It may be this that's causing a change in gut microbes."

Other research has also linked autism, depression and some other diseases to changes in gut microbes.

How can we maintain a healthy balance of gut bacteria? Until we know more, Dr Keely advises caution when it comes to using antibiotics. "Overusing them is probably doing more harm than good," he says. "I also think that a healthier diet and moving away from a sedentary lifestyle are very important factors."



FARE WELL

How often do you eat lentils, beans or cooled cooked potato? Like wholegrains and firm bananas, these foods are sources of resistant starch, a type of fibre linked to better gut health and a reduced risk of bowel cancer, according to the CSIRO. Resistant starch acts as food for friendly gut microbes, which then produce a substance called butyrate that helps keep the bowel lining healthy. More potato salad or chilli beans, anyone?



BE KIND, REWIND

Put your best face forward in the new year with help from these tubs, tubes and tips, writes Elisabeth King.

Australian women spend millions each year on eyelifts, dermal fillers and other procedures to achieve a more youthful appearance. Yet there's a kinder, more affordable, way of turning back the clock, which involves mastering a few cosmetic tricks and updating your make-up bag.

PRIMER TIME

Applying a primer locks in the hydrating effects of moisturiser and prevents foundation from 'disappearing' as the day or evening wears on. Special pigments in Lancôme's La Base Pro Hydra Glow Illuminating Makeup Primer (\$55) keep skin supple and looking fresh under foundation.

BLURRED LINES

Loss of collagen as the skin ages not only causes wrinkles, it leads to enlarged pores. So-called 'blur' products have become a hit thanks to their ability to deflect attention from pores, uneven skin texture and pigmentation marks. Kiehl's Micro-Blur Skin Perfector (\$47) instantly smooths skin and claims to help reduce pore size with regular use. Use it alone or under foundation.

OIL STRIKE

Facial oils hydrate and give a youthful sheen to dry or normal skin. A drop or two can also be added to sunscreen

or concealer to make it spread more easily. Palmer's Multi-effect Perfecting Facial Oil (\$20), with argan, maracuja and other luscious fruit oils, targets visible signs of ageing.

READY FOR YOUR CLOSE-UP

Foundations containing light-diffusing particles bounce light off the face for a more radiant complexion. For an even more rejuvenating effect in your 40s or 50s, choose a warmer shade than your skin tone. Estée Lauder Re-Nutriv Ultra Radiance Makeup (\$120) contains a micro-fine mesh of gold and gem particles to create a luminous effect. Maybelline New York SuperStay Better Skin Foundation (\$22) relies on a vitamin C derivative and other skincare actives to plump up the skin and keep your complexion looking dewy.

ALPHABETICAL ORDER

For a sheer, natural daytime look, swap foundation for a BB cream or sheer powder foundation. Garnier Pure Active BB Cream (\$14) evens out skin tones and contains salicylic acid to fight blemishes, which can plague women in their 30s and 40s when summer heat triggers an increase in oil production. Clinique Moisture Surge CC Cream Compact Hydrating Colour Corrector (\$50) gives lightweight coverage with a radiant finish for dryer skins.



FOR A MORE YOUTHFUL LOOK, APPLY COSMETICS WITH A LIGHT HAND. THE ONLY PRODUCT YOU SHOULD APPLY GENEROUSLY IS, OF COURSE, SUNSCREEN.

WARMING UP

Skin becomes paler with age. Applying bronzer to cheeks, nose and chin (the spots where sun would hit your face) is a tried and tested tip for looking younger. If you don't want to look sun-kissed, use a powder that will give a healthy glow and help to neutralise redness. Chanel's Les Beiges Healthy Glow Sheer Powder (\$80) adds subtle warmth and comes in five shades to suit most skins.

HOLD THE SHINE

Too much face powder can make the skin look crepey. To give hot-weather shine the flick and keep your foundation in place, turn to a translucent, light-diffusing powder, such as Almay Smart Shade Loose Powder (\$26).

EYES AHEAD

Creamy or metallic shadow can highlight wrinkles. Instead, apply a matt shadow in the socket, then sweep a satin-textured eyeshadow over the centre of the lids.

Estée Lauder Pure Color Envy Sculpting Eyeshadow 5-Color Palette in Provocative Petal (\$90), with shades from cream to espresso, is flattering on most skins. It pays to splurge on quality mascara: Lancôme's Grandiose (\$54) debuts a patent-pending swan-neck wand that extends and lifts every lash.

BLUSHING BEAUTY

Anyone over 30 with dry skin should use cream blush, not powder. It adds radiance and creates a 'lifted' look when applied to the highest point of the cheekbones. Clinique's Chubby Stick Cheek Colour Balm (\$42) delivers a sweep of healthy, glowing colour.

LIGHTEN THE LIPS

Easy-to-apply lip crayons offer more precision than a gloss and last as long as lipstick. Revlon's ColorBurst Balm range features hydrating lip crayons, \$18 each, in 30 colours and a choice of matt, stain or lacquer finish. Mix and match.

BEHIND THE MASK

The latest face masks offer both instant results and long-term benefits.

- ❖ La Mer The Intensive Revitalizing Mask (\$210) is a quick-acting, creamy formula that boosts radiance as it plumps and hydrates the skin.
- ❖ Napoleon Perdis Auto Pilot Radiance-Boosting Mask (\$85), a soothing, hydrating gel mask with silicone elastomers, is great to use before a special night out.
- ❖ Montagne Jeunesse Skin Heroes Dry Skin Mask (\$5) offers great value for a two-stage treatment: an antioxidant mask plus a hydrating serum to replenish moisture.



FROM LEFT Auto Pilot Radiance-Boosting Mask, \$85, Napoleon Perdis. Chubby Stick Cheek Colour Balm in Plumped Up Peony, \$42, Clinique. ColorBurst Lacquer Balm in Vivacious, \$18, Revlon. Multi-Effect Perfecting Facial Oil, \$20, Palmer's. La Base Pro Hydra Glow Illuminating Makeup Primer, \$55, Lancôme. Grandiose mascara, \$54, Lancôme. Re-Nutriv Ultra Radiance Makeup foundation in Shell Beige, \$120, Estée Lauder. For Where to Buy, see page 196.



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Organic Lines

TREND REPORT

Be inspired by the soft, gentle curves and fresh colours of nature that come alive in Spring.



Make your bath the centrepiece

*A freestanding bath
is the perfect place
to relax and unwind.*

2



*Extend the look
right through to
your tapware.*

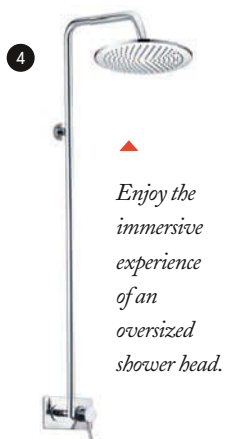
6



Open & Inviting

*Above counter basins are
a great way to introduce
natural contours.*

8



*Enjoy the
immersive
experience
of an
oversized
shower head.*

**Spring
hot picks**



How to get the Organic Lines look

- Use raw materials to create a connection with the outside world.
- Enhance the look with organically inspired lighting or tile patterns.

To see more emerging trends visit
reece.com.au/trends

1. Dorf Pearl Basin Mixer, WELS 5 Star – 6 L/min
2. Kado Arc Flat Rim Freestanding Bath
3. Veitch Derwent 100 Shower Channel
4. Mizu Drift Overhead 300mm, WELS 3 Star – 9 L/min + Mizu Drift Column Shower with Mixer
5. Caroma Pearl Semi Recessed Basin*
6. Methven Aroha Wall Basin Mixer Set, WELS 4 Star – 7.5 L/min
7. Alape Circa 450 Above Counter Basin in White*
8. Roca Bol Vessel Basin*

* Tapware and waste sold separately.

ADVICE

bathrooms ♦ buyer's guide ♦ flooring ♦ ask an expert



This striking box shelf, made from a basin turned on its side, is one of many innovative ideas in our bathrooms feature. Turn the page to see more...

KEY INCLUSIONS

- ❖ Laufen Living Square countertop basin, \$1050, Reece.
- ❖ Milli Axon extended basin mixer, \$699, Reece.
- ❖ Custom-designed Corian-topped vanity, about \$2000.
- ❖ Laufen Pro A wall-hung toilet pan, \$807, Reece.
- ❖ Concrete-look porcelain wall and floor tiles in Industry Grey, \$44/m², Exclusive Tiles.
- ❖ Gessi Riflessi overhead shower \$1101, Reece.

IN FOCUS

FLASH SPLASH ZONE

Australians are thinking big in the bathroom, making room for family, fashion and fresh ideas. These fab finalists from the Reece I ♥ My Bathroom competition show the way.



KEY INCLUSIONS

- ❖ Kado Lure Petite freestanding bath, \$1540, and Phoenix Flow bath filler, \$170, Reece.
- ❖ Methven Escape MK2 Hi Rise overhead showers, 3-star WELS rating, \$374/each, Reece.
- ❖ ADP Medina mirrored wall cabinets, \$640/each, and Cibo Uber wall-hung vanities, \$2770/each, Reece.
- ❖ Capri Shell mother-of-pearl mosaics on porcelain base, \$89/300x600mm, Tile Power.
- ❖ CMFB003.36R wall tiles in White, \$25/m², and CM7138 timber-look floor tiles, \$110/m², ColorTile. For Where to Buy, see page 196.



Perfect harmony

Ru Lenta went for a blend of old and new in the main bathroom (opposite) of her Sydney house. "We wanted to keep some of its traditional features, such as the windows and cornices, but to update other elements," she says.

THE APPROACH A Corian vanity designed by Ru, an interior designer, informs the colour palette. "I wanted the bathroom to make a statement yet feel 'soft', which is also why I chose shutters. They break up the room's hard lines and introduce texture." Because space is at a premium, she opted to do without a bath and selected compact fittings.

THE RESULT "It's always thrilling to see your vision realised," says Ru, "and for it to be recognised in the Reece competition is a lovely compliment."

Ru Lenta Interior Design; 0477 174 149 or www.rulentadesign.com.

Sparkling choice

When owners Karen and Simon Creasey renovated their Sydney home, they embraced the opportunity to create a dream ensuite (above and right).

"Borrowing space from the bedroom and the old kitchen, we had plenty of room to add a generous ensuite and a clean slate, design-wise," says Karen.

THE APPROACH Years of reading home magazines had cemented one thing in Karen's mind: "I knew I loved white and clean lines, balanced with touches of timber", she says. Because this bathroom has no external walls or windows, a skylight was vital; it works beautifully to spill light over the wall of shimmering mother-of-pearl mosaics behind the bathtub.

THE RESULT "It's light and airy, and the clean lines make it feel larger than it is," says Karen. "It's my perfect bathroom." ➤





White delight

The notion of 'seamlessness' was at the core of fashion designer Quoc Luu's vision for the main bathroom of his Melbourne home. "My idea was to create a bathroom without tile lines, grout or too much glass, none of the elements that can make a bathroom feel cold and uncomfortable," he says. Instead, Quoc's bathroom includes signature pieces such as resin-coated linen shower curtains for a touch of luxe, parquet flooring and a box shelf made from a basin turned on its side – the bath's mixer tap slots into the spot where the drain would be.

THE APPROACH The french doors that lead out to a central garden inspired Quoc's design. "I wanted this space to be beautiful and inviting," he says, "and the doors play a key role in this." The 4x3m space was significantly remodelled: it had in fact been a laundry previously. "There

was wood panelling and mission brown floor tiles," says Quoc. "You couldn't really imagine worse!" He took some time off work to concentrate on designing his bathroom and even flew to Milan to check out the latest ideas and inclusions. Most of the fixtures here were purchased on, or inspired by, that trip to Italy. To get around the need for tiles, the walls were first waterproofed and then given a powder-coated finish in Dulux Vivid White. "It took a lot of research, but I was determined not to have tiles," says Quoc. Likewise, despite being told that timber parquetry wasn't an option in a wet area, he managed to find a way: "The solution was to lay marine ply under the boards".

THE RESULT This clean, white bathroom reflects its owner's design nous and love of a clean-lined aesthetic. "It feels fresh and it should stand the test of time," says Quoc.



KEY INCLUSIONS

- ❖ In-Out bath, about \$9631, and Fez mixer, about \$906, Agape.
- ❖ Goccia shower, about A\$2038, Gessi.
- ❖ Bath filler, about \$838, Fantini.
- ❖ Laufen Mimo double wall basin, \$1540, Reece.
- ❖ Hansgrohe Pura Vida basin mixers, \$689/each, Rogerseller.
- ❖ Laufen Mimo back-to-wall toilet pan and cover, \$984, Reece.
- ❖ Geberit Monolith cistern in black glass, \$778, Bathroomware House.
- ❖ French oak parquet, \$1900 (supply only), Wildwood Aged Timber Flooring. For Where to Buy, see page 196.





Zen zone

The main bathroom of Meghan Butterfield and Rohan Atherton's home in Victoria's Dandenong Ranges reflects the couple's desire for a simpler life. "We're tree-changers and our whole plan was to live a more relaxed life in the hills," says Meghan. "I wanted the bathroom to fit in with this aim and to be a place of retreat."

THE APPROACH Built on a generous scale to work for a family of four, this bathroom features a handcast, concrete bath as its centrepiece. "We initially intended to buy only basins but when we visited the showroom, I turned around to find my husband lying in the bath. He'd fallen in love." Physically getting the bath into their new build proved challenging: it was craned in before the floor-to-ceiling windows were installed. Penny round tiles were chosen for their delicacy,

but applied judiciously. "I wanted to use them in a relatively dry area of the room, to minimise cleaning the grout around them, so we used them on the feature wall that divides the bath and basin," says Meghan. The shower recess is tucked to the left of the bath. "It's concealed with a frosted shower door so that it's almost invisible." The basin is set on a recycled and stained slab of messmate timber and paired with a sleek all-in-one mixer.

THE RESULT This bathroom is a joy to spend time in. "It caters well for a young family," says Meghan. "My four-year-old daughter loves swimming around in the bath but it also provides a beautiful time-out zone for tired parents."

To see the winning bathroom and more great design ideas, go to www.reece.com.au/bathrooms/i-love-my-bathroom.

KEY INCLUSIONS

- ❖ Oval bath, \$9900, and Pod basin, \$2200, Boyd Alternatives.
- ❖ For similar mosaic tiles, try 97709 Mono penny round mosaics in White, from \$6/324x310mm sheet, Beaumont Tiles.
- ❖ For similar floor tiles, try Docks porcelain tiles in Graphite, \$77/m², De Fazio Tiles & Stone.
- ❖ Zucchetti ZXS shower and bath mixers, \$265/each, Mary Noall.
- ❖ Messmate slab, \$365, Shiver Me Timbers.
- ❖ Grundtal hooks, \$3.99/pair, Ikea. For Where to Buy, see page 196.



Styling by Judy Ostergaard. Photograph by Michael Gordon Hill.



Life's lessons CAN BE FUN

"After doing a full load of dirty washing, the clothes looked bright and vibrant and smelled fresh! I was so impressed."
Kate, NSW.

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ONLINE



ASK ROSE-MARIE

From storage solutions on a budget to the right shade for a handmade lampbase, our resident interiors expert has the answers.

Q A FEW MONTHS AGO I VISITED THE MID-CENTURY MODERN: AUSTRALIAN DESIGN FURNITURE EXHIBITION IN MELBOURNE AND WAS BLOWN AWAY BY WHAT I SAW. I PARTICULARLY LOVED THE FURNITURE OF GRANT FEATHERSTON AND DOUGLAS SNELLING. ARE THEIR DESIGNS STILL BEING MADE? WHERE CAN I BUY THEM?

TIM RILEY, VIA EMAIL

A Most of the furniture in the exhibition came from keenly held private collections and museums. If you are incredibly lucky, you may find an original from either of these designers at auction, but it will cost – a Featherston Expo 67 Mark II chair sold for \$14,640 in June 2014. For mid-century furniture lovers on a more modest budget, your best bet is a reproduction. Melbourne-based furniture retailer Curious Grace produces Grant Featherston's iconic designs under license from the Featherston estate, including the B210H chair (right), from \$2810. The bonus of this option is that you can specify your favourite fabric for the upholstery. **(03) 9687 6878 or www.curiousgrace.com.au.**



Q OUR BEDROOM IS SMALL WITH NO FIXED STORAGE AND WE DON'T HAVE THE MONEY FOR BUILT-INS. WHAT CAN WE DO? *MELODIE YEO, VIA EMAIL*

A Install shelves up to the ceiling, and use baskets and boxes to keep your gear in order. Ikea's Algot modular system (above) takes this idea one step further with hanging rails and shoe racks. Alternatively, you could mount rails on the ceiling – the designs from Scandinavian Wallpaper & Décor are divine – or use a mobile garment rack or wardrobe such as those from Howards Storage World.
**www.ikea.com.au;
www.wallpaperdecor.com.au;
www.hsw.com.au.**



Q WE ARE PLANNING TO RENOVATE OUR HOME AND HAVE PLENTY OF IDEAS ABOUT WHAT WE WANT, BUT WE'RE NOT SURE WHO TO CONTACT FOR HELP IN PUTTING OUR IDEAS INTO ACTION. SHOULD WE APPROACH AN ARCHITECT, A BUILDER OR AN INTERIOR DESIGNER? *AMANDA WALSH, VIA EMAIL*

A Excellent question. All three professionals can help you conceptualise your ideas. An architect will be able to draw up plans incorporating your ideas, give you options and then take your plans to your council, which is imperative for a renovation that will alter your home's footprint. Depending on the extent of the renovation, a builder can advise on the feasibility of your ideas, and an interior designer will work with both architect and builder to take renovation to completion by advising on the interior scheme. ➤



Former H&G editor Rose-Marie Hillier has an outstanding contact book. Send questions, including your name and address, to H&G Advice, GPO Box 4088, Sydney, NSW 1028; email h&g@bauer-media.com.au; or use the free viewa app, scan this page and follow the prompts to send your query.

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Q MY GRANDFATHER MADE A TALL FLOOR LAMP BASE ABOUT 60 YEARS AGO. IT IS SMOOTH, TURNED TIMBER MADE FROM DIFFERENT TYPES OF WOOD IN FOUR SECTIONS AND ASSEMBLED IN A SLIM PENCIL STYLE. WHAT KIND OF SHADE WOULD BE SUITABLE? *DI ROBERTS, VIA EMAIL*

A Because the base is tall and thin it's important to get the scale of the lampshade right. You don't want to overwhelm the base (or have it topple over!). That said, an over-scale shade in a lightweight material could be really eye-catching. Consider a barrel shape in linen that is a darker shade than the wood. For something a little more unusual, look at the Luvial Sand Shade from David Trubridge, which is made from bamboo ply. Alternatively, play up the retro feel and go for a shade in a groovy '60s fabric or wallpaper. www.davidtrubridge.com.

GARDENING Q&A

Q I WAS TOLD LUCERNE WAS PREFERABLE TO PINE BARK MULCH FOR MY ROSES, BUT SOON THE BED WAS OVERRUN WITH WEEDS. HELP! *KATE LEWIS, VIA EMAIL*

A It's true that roses don't like woody mulches, preferring something soft such as lucerne, pea straw or sugar cane mulch. The same goes for the vegie patch. Soft mulches break down much faster but this feeds the soil, building organic matter and promoting healthy soil microbes and earthworms. The problem with these mulches is that weeds can get harvested along with the rest. Often the lucerne and peas sprout as well. Although these are all easy to pull out, it is a pain. An alternative is lucerne mulching pellets, which are heat treated to sterilise any weed seeds. They're compressed, making them easy to handle, and safer because there's no dust. Major's Mulch (www.majorsmulch.com.au) is pure lucerne from a sustainable, family run farm in NSW. It also does a lovely compost product. — *Helen Young*.





THE GREEN HOUSE

RING OUT THE OLD

Start the year by digging out old phones for recycling. It's a good call, writes Sarah Pickette.

Now is peak phone-buying season, when thousands of people are snapping up shiny new mobiles in sales, adding to the plethora of phones that turn up under the Christmas tree. While "that new phone feeling", as TV ads would have us call it, is something many of us love, it's worth highlighting the importance of recycling your old mobiles (plus the chargers, batteries and accoutrements that come with them).

"Most Australians upgrade or exchange their mobile phones every 18 to 24 months," says Rose Read, recycling manager of MobileMuster, the only industry-led and government-accredited mobile-recycling scheme operating in Australia. "We think there could be more than 23.5 million unwanted mobiles in homes around Australia, tucked away in a drawer or kept 'just in case'."

MobileMuster is asking Australians to start the new year with a clear-out. "We're continuing the work we do with the Salvation Army," says Read. "For every kilo of phones and accessories we receive for recycling between December 1 [2014] and January 31, we'll donate \$2 to the Salvation Army's Christmas Appeal."

You'll assist disadvantaged Australians, and help the environment, too. If mobile

phones are not disposed of properly, some of the nastier materials (such as mercury, lead, cadmium) can leach into soil and groundwater.

"The thing about mobiles is that they are incredibly recyclable," says Read.

"More than 90 per cent of materials can be recovered and reused."

The purpose of MobileMuster's post-Christmas campaign is to get people thinking, so that they'll fish out their old mobile phones while the issue is fresh in their minds. And sending your old phones to MobileMuster is a straightforward process. There are more than 4000 public collection points across Australia. You can also post your mobile to the organisation for free, by either printing out a reply-paid label from the MobileMuster website or picking up a pre-paid satchel from Australia Post.

"We have made the process as simple and accessible as we can," says Read.

If you're concerned about what might happen to any data that could be left on your old mobile phone, you needn't be. MobileMuster guarantees that all data is destroyed and that donated phones are never on-sold.

For drop-off points and reply-paid labels, go to www.mobilemuster.com.au.

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Finest

DISCOVER THE STORY BEHIND
OUR FARMHOUSE
VINTAGE CHEDDAR



In the lush green pastures of Gippsland, Victoria third generation cheese makers Ferial and Sam craft this award winning cheddar the old way. From the single herd milk to the hand sprinkling of salt and the careful wrapping of each cheese wheel in cloth for ageing, every step takes place on their farm. It's a labour of love and their cheddar tastes all the better for it.

NEW SHOPPING

WAY TO GO

Take these handy accessories on your next holiday and look forward to a smooth passage.

1 There's plenty of room for all your essentials in the Helder leather **backpack** in Acid Yellow, \$225, Elk; (03) 9478 1800 or www.elkaccessories.com.au. **2** These Philips DJ-style **headphones**, \$13, feature soft ear cushions for comfortable listening on long journeys. Officeworks; 1300 633 423 or www.officeworks.com.au. **3** Keep laundry organised on the road with the Adventure Awaits cotton **wash bags**, \$20/set of two, Kikki.K; (03) 9645 6346 or www.kikki-k.com. **4** Your luggage will be easy to spot on the carousel with these Neon leather **luggage tags**, \$50/each, Papier D'Amour; (02) 9362 5200 or www.papierdamour.com.au. **5** Spin a few yarns with the What's Your Story Collection Travel Stories **conversation**

cards, \$25, Corban & Blair; www.corbanblair.com.au. **6** Discover the history and culture of Melbourne from a new perspective with *The Casual Cyclist's Guide: Melbourne* by Matthew Hurst & Guests, \$23, Hardie Grant; www.hardiegrant.com.au. **7** Sleep will come easily no matter where you are with the Florence Broadhurst cotton **travel set** in Bluebell, \$35 (includes neck pillow, eye mask and ear plugs). Outliving; (02) 8755 1500 or www.outliving.com.au. **8** Shock-resistant, waterproof and pocket-sized, the Canon PowerShot D30 **digital camera**, \$349, is the ideal companion for your next adventure. It features a built-in GPS to tag and log your trip. JB Hi-Fi; www.jbhifi.com.au.



1



2

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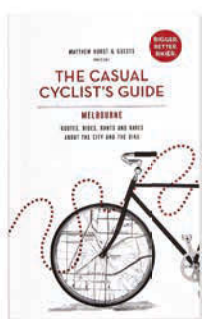
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BUYER'S GUIDE

COOLING

The latest cooling systems deliver relief from the heat – without scorching power bills.

The heat is on and our focus is on keeping cool, hopefully while using as little energy as possible. Home-cooling choices range from simple fans to ever-more efficient cooling systems. Airconditioners can now be found in more than half of all Australian households. Figures from the Ministerial Council on Energy indicate that airconditioner sales were expected to hit 1.36 million units in 2014, and to climb to 1.55 million units per year by 2020. There is a system to >

Text by Leesa Maher. Photograph by Alicia Taylor/bauersyndication.com.au.



AIR SUPPLY

Dave Smith of Fujitsu General offers these tips to optimise your airconditioner's performance and keep your energy use down:

- ❖ Set the temperature to 24°C in warmer months and try to resist the temptation to go any lower.
- ❖ Use timers to program the system to turn on before the peak temperature of the day. This will prevent it from having to operate at full capacity for long periods of time.
- ❖ Clean your filters regularly. Debris and fine particles can gather and slow down the performance of the airconditioner.
- ❖ Take advantage of energy-efficient features such as human sensor control, which automatically turns the airconditioner down or off when no movement is detected.
- ❖ Regular maintenance checks, organised through your dealer, will ensure optimum performance.

◀ suit every home, from portable models for renters to split systems for cooling one room, multi-split systems to cool several rooms, and ducted units that cool an entire house.

Airconditioners have never been more affordable to buy or operate, says Dave Smith, general manager of Fujitsu General. "Our latest airconditioners are the most energy-efficient models to date."

Choose an efficient, feature-packed product to help you manage your power bills, he says. Look for a reverse-cycle model with inverter technology that offers cooling in summer and heating in winter, seven-day timers to avoid the unit operating at full capacity for long periods, and integrated sensors that switch the unit off or to power-save mode when no movement is detected in the room after a period of time.

Other smart advances include wi-fi control, low-noise mode on the external unit, and high-tech filtration that's a boon for allergy sufferers. Some of LG's latest releases feature Active Energy Control, which allows you to adjust the compressor frequency to fit the number of people in the room (40 per cent if you are alone; 60 per cent if it's dinner for two) to reduce power wastage.

Split-system units no longer come as bulky units only in white; sleeker metal and black are now available. A good example is Samsung's Smart Series II, which has a slimline triangular shape.

FAN CLUB

The humble ceiling fan brings instant relief and uses a fraction of the energy of airconditioners (approximately 3c an hour to run). "A far cry from the cane blades of the 1990s, fan design and technology have made some amazing leaps in the past 20 years," says Denise Hammond, a product specialist with Beacon Lighting.

Both fan blades and motors are available in an array of finishes,

including timber and bamboo, matt black and transparent acrylic. And when it comes to features, you can now choose from models that offer built-in lights with dimmers, variable-speed remote controls, as well as energy-efficient DC (direct current) models that use far less electricity than traditional AC (alternating current) ceiling fans.

Manufacturers have worked hard to reduce noise and buffeting, which has been an issue with ceiling fans in the past. Possibly the greatest advancement in ceiling fans has been the advent of the retractable blade, says Hammond.

Portable fans remain a convenient option and continue to sell in big numbers, particularly during a heat wave, says The Good Guys appliance expert, Andrew Foard. "These fans serve different purposes. The desk fan is more of a personal fan, while pedestal fans move air around the room or can be directed straight at you."

The portable fan market has seen its share of innovation. The bladeless Dyson Cool fan isn't new but it has recently had an overhaul. The new model is 75-per-cent quieter than previous models and uses 40-per-cent less energy. How's that for cool? ➤

Blade runner

Denise Hammond of Beacon Lighting offers tips for buying ceiling fans:

- ❖ Good basic ceiling fans without a built-in light start from about \$125.
- ❖ Are five blades cooler than four? There is little difference in output but a five-blade fan will have a larger motor to propel the extra blades, which means more energy is used.
- ❖ Blade length has a bearing on airflow and cooling. Select a fan with longer blades for larger spaces such as family rooms or bedroom suites.
- ❖ If your ceilings are higher than 3m, have fans installed with a 900mm extension rod to optimise cooling.

DESK FANS



LINDA RETRO BOX FAN, \$34

A funky design with timber detail, this lightweight portable fan features a two-speed control plus a 'strong' wind flow for stuffy rooms. Ideal for the study or bedroom. Target; www.target.com.au.



MORETTI RETRO BLUE 30CM CHROME DESK FAN, \$40

Blast the summer scorcher blues away with this fun fan, which features four blades and metal grill in a stylish, utilitarian design. Bunnings; www.bunnings.com.au.



KAMBROOK KFA213 ARCTIC DESK FAN, \$40

Besides three speed settings and an adjustable tilt head to better control the direction of airflow, this 40cm fan also oscillates for optimum cooling. Whisper quiet and the white finish looks ultra fresh and cool. Kambrook; www.kambrook.com.au.



DYSON AM06 DESK FAN IN BLACK/NICKEL, \$449

Up to 75-per-cent quieter than traditional fans, this modern interpretation – with no visible blades – comes with a remote control, 10 airflow settings and a sleep timer so you can set it to switch off after you nod off. Easy to clean too. Dyson; www.dyson.com.au/fans.

PEDESTAL FANS



DYNABREEZE 75CM INDUSTRIAL PEDESTAL FAN, \$199

This large-blade fan is designed to go the distance with a 28kg frame built to commercial standards. Offering three-speed operation, oscillating and tilt adjustable head, it's ideal for sheds and garages. Bunnings.



OMEGA ALTISE TOWER FAN, \$89

A 12-hour timer sets this elegant fan apart, allowing it to automatically switch off after you fall asleep. Other benefits include 'wind modes' including a super-cooling 'natural' breeze and a gentler decreasing 'sleep' breeze. Harvey Norman; www.harveynorman.com.au.



SUNBEAM FA8900 PEDESTAL FAN, \$139

Ideal for boosting breezes in larger rooms, this 40cm model offers airflow in vertical, horizontal or even 'figure eight' movements as well as six speed options for optimum cooling. The remote control makes life easier, as does a 10-hour timer. The Good Guys; www.thegoodguys.com.au.



WOODEN TRIPOD FAN IN OIL-RUBBED BRONZE, \$385

A stylish alternative to traditional pedestal fans, this was inspired by the classic architect's tripod. The powerful three-speed motor, with 50-degree oscillation feature, sits on solid and very timber legs. A statement fan. Fat Shack Vintage; www.fatshackvintage.com.au.



CEILING FANS



HAIKU FAN IN BLACK MATRIX COMPOSITE, FROM \$979

This fan promises zero noise and has sensors to monitor environmental conditions and the number of people in the room, automatically adjusting the speed for maximum cooling. Big Ass Fans; www.bigassfans.com.au.



MINKA AIRE ARTEMIS FAN WITH LIGHT IN DARK KOA, \$629

With a stylish resort look, this fan features 147cm-long blades, an 80W built-in light fitting and a three-speed wall control. Comes with a two-year warranty and optional remote control, sold separately. Beacon Lighting; beaconlighting.com.au.



CLIPSAL HIGH-PERFORMANCE SERIES CEILING SWEEP FAN, \$249

Its aluminium blades means this fan is particularly suited to homes in coastal regions and areas of high humidity. Available in three- or four-blade designs. Clipsal; 1300 202 525 or www.clipsal.com.au.



ACQUA CEILING FAN IN BRUSHED NICKEL WITH WOODEN BLADES, \$880

This fan offers a retro look with quiet rotation and an integrated downlight. Comes in polished chrome, brushed nickel or textured bronze. Fat Shack Vintage; www.fatshackvintage.com.au.

AIRCONDITIONERS



SAMSUNG SMART SERIES II REVERSE-CYCLE INVERTER SPLIT, FROM \$979

This unit is wi-fi enabled, so you can control cooling and heating, monitor energy usage via a smartphone app, even when you're not home. Samsung; www.samsung.com.au.



FUJITSU SET-ASTG34LFCC C9.2KW H10.0KW REVERSE-CYCLE SPLIT SYSTEM, \$2949

Ideal for a large living room, this powerful split system is wi-fi enabled and comes with a five-year warranty. This one flies off the shelves. The Good Guys; www.thegoodguys.com.au.



LG PREMIUM AIR CONDITIONERS, FROM \$1149 (S09AWN-14)

Great for allergy sufferers, this model uses several filtration systems to capture pollen and dust and also sterilises them to eliminate mould and odours – so your place stays clean, as well as cool. LG; www.lg.com/au.



DIMPLEX DC15RCBW PORTABLE REVERSE-CYCLE AIRCONDITIONER, \$1099

Ideal for renters, this unit cools, heats, dehumidifies and does not need a hose or drip tray. Guaranteed to cool in up to 43°C heat. Appliances Online; www.appliancesonline.com.au.





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SPECIAL REPORT

FLOORING FOR INDOORS & OUT

Create a seamless transition between indoors and out by getting your flooring right. Here's how to create a flow-on effect, writes **Georgia Madden**.

Australians remain firmly in love with indoor-outdoor living. And if there's one singularly effective way to express this, it's through blurring the lines between inside and out by carrying indoor flooring out to a deck, terrace or balcony. Add some beautiful receding doors to the picture and it becomes difficult to distinguish where one space ends and another begins.

Our climate fosters this lifestyle, says Kathryn Robson, principal architect of Melbourne practice Robson Rak. "Australians expect to be able to use their outdoor space as an additional room. Having a direct link between the two areas, such as the same flooring, facilitates this."

You are able to take your pick from timber, tile, stone and concrete flooring, but be sure that whatever you choose comes in different finishes: smooth for indoors and a more textured, durable version for outdoors.

TIMBER

"Native Australian hardwoods such as blackbutt and spotted gum are the best options for creating a seamless look inside and out," says Brad Lawrence, national flooring buyer for Bunnings. "They're quite fire-resistant, which makes them safe to install near a barbecue, plus they're durable enough to cope with extreme weather."

Softer wood such as pine is best avoided outdoors as they can be vulnerable to rot, warping and termites, unless chemically treated. Bamboo flooring is an eco-friendly choice and the array of colours and board sizes is expanding, but it's recommended only for indoor and undercover applications.

Right now, blonde timbers are very popular. "They provide a fresh, neutral canvas for interior design schemes and landscaping, and can help to visually open up small living areas," says Clinton Skeoch, national market development manager at Boral Timber. "When it comes to size, we're seeing a continued interest in wide boards, which lend a casual and inviting look."

COST GUIDE Blackbutt timber floorboards from \$70/m², and blackbutt timber decking, from \$79/m² (supply only), Boral Timber; www.boral.com.au.

TILES

Tiles are ideal for indoor-outdoor use as they're durable, low-maintenance and available in a variety of finishes, so you can have a smooth tile indoors and run the same design with a slip-resistant finish through to your patio or wet area. While stone, ceramic and mosaic tiles all work well, Tom Hayes, flooring buyer at Masters Home Improvement, nominates porcelain tiles as his pick. ➤

Using floorboards and decking in the same timber, as shown in these blackbutt products from Boral Timber, produces a streamlined, unified effect.





'A RECESSED OR FLUSH-MOUNTED DOOR TRACK IS THE BEST WAY TO ACHIEVE A SEAMLESS FLOW BETWEEN INDOORS AND OUT. IT COSTS MORE BUT IT'S WORTH THE OUTLAY.' KATHRYN ROBSON, ARCHITECT

STOP THE SLIP

Prevent nasty accidents by ensuring the flooring you choose is sufficiently slip-resistant. "All flooring surfaces can become slippery, particularly when wet, so a non-slip coating is essential," says Bunnings' Brad Lawrence. To boost the slip-resistance factor on timber decking, you can apply a lightly textured anti-slip topcoat, such as Sikksens Cetol Deck Slip Resistant. DTA Domestic Anti Slip does the job for glossy ceramics and mosaic tiles. For around the pool, be sure to choose a material that has been specifically rated for wet areas.

◀ "They are cost-effective, waterproof and UV-resistant," he says. "They can be made to mimic just about any surface, from wood and stone to concrete."

Dara Shashoua, director of tile specialist Byzantine Design, concurs. "They've come a long way in the last decade," she says. In terms of current trends, she says it's all about pattern. "It could take the form of encaustics, which are cement tiles inlaid with a pattern, or laying tiles in chevron or herringbone patterns."

COST GUIDE Glazed porcelain tiles, from \$50/m², and encaustic tiles, from \$99/m² (supply only), Byzantine Design; www.byzantinedesign.com.au.

NATURAL STONE AND PAVERS

"Stone used to be very much seen as an outdoor material but it's now regularly making an appearance in other parts of

the home," says Katie Rowley, marketing manager at Eco Outdoor. For continuous indoor-outdoor spaces, she suggests travertine, bluestone, granite or limestone. "If you use stone across a large area, make sure it features some natural variation, which will add a sense of warmth to the space."

"Consider a polished finish for indoors and a more raw finish, such as sawn or bush-hammered, for outdoors."

Another option is to use pavers in brick or concrete. While they're not suitable for indoor use, the ever-expanding colour palette available means that you can match them to any indoor flooring you like.

COST GUIDE Granite, from \$67/m², travertine or bluestone, from \$72/m², and limestone, from \$89/m² (supply only), Eco Outdoor; www.ecooutdoor.com.au.

'TIMBER-LOOK PORCELAIN TILES ARE A GREAT OPTION IF YOU WANT THE LOOK OF TIMBER BUT NOT THE MAINTENANCE.' DARA SHASHOUA, BYZANTINE DESIGN



DRAINAGE MATTERS

When planning indoor-outdoor flooring, it's important to factor in drainage, says Troy Creighton, managing director at linear drain company Stormtech.

"Creating a water barrier between indoor and outdoor surfaces is what stops damp and water entering the home and destroying indoor flooring," he says. Timber decking does not require a drainage system as long as there is adequate spacing between boards, but solid materials such as stone, concrete and tiles do. If you want to maintain a seamless flow between inside and out, consider a recessed design with a narrow profile, such as Stormtech's tile drain inserts. The company's drains range from \$150 for a basic kit to about \$700/m for made-to-measure designs in stainless steel.

Subtle variations in travertine and other natural materials will prevent a large tiled space from looking clinical.



FROM LEFT Moorish Night 200x200mm cement tiles in Smokey Blue, \$165/m², Jatana Interiors. Atelier 225x900mm glazed porcelain tiles in Beige, \$100/m², Amber Tiles. Plantino 1850x138cm bamboo floorboards in Straw, from \$57/m², Choices Flooring. Quick-Step Variano 220x19cm multi-strip timber floorboards in Champagne Brut Oak Oiled, from \$79/m², Choices Flooring. Ardesia 100x100mm slate tiles in Grigio, \$86/m², Byzantine Design. Provincale 610x610mm travertine tiles in Cream, \$97/m², Byzantine Design. **For Where to Buy, see page 196.**



TOP TIMES ARE WAITING IN AUSTRALIA'S TOP HOLIDAY SPOTS.

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PETS

SMALL WONDERS

It's easy to see why the miniature fox terrier is such a beloved breed, writes Roger Crosthwaite.

Bigger isn't necessarily better, especially when it comes to fox terriers. That sleek little ball of black, brown and white that Australians know and love as the miniature foxie is actually a smaller version of a larger, much older breed.

Descended from English smooth-haired fox terriers crossed with small dogs, the Australian miniature foxie established itself as a distinct breed back in the late 19th century, and was invaluable at keeping rats out of barns and rabbits out of paddocks.

Persistent and sometimes hard to rein in, they are bundles of energy on four short legs. It's easy to see why the phrase 'terrier-like' is applied to someone who won't be dissuaded from the task at hand...

When you consider those attributes along with the fact that terriers get their name from the word *terra*, Latin for ground, it goes some way towards explaining why miniature foxies are notorious for getting themselves bitten by snakes; they just can't resist chasing things down holes.

So how do they shape up as pets? Miniature foxies, with their eager-to-please and sociable nature, make great companions for anyone energetic enough to give them the attention, training and exercise they require.

Their small size – a mere 30cm high and weighing around five kilos when

fully grown – means they are suitable for apartments and townhouses, but be warned, their energy doesn't diminish when they come inside, so be sure to keep your glassware and any other prized breakables well out of harm's way.

Being natural hunters, miniature foxies love to chase, and that includes cars, cats they may not know or anything else they might consider fair game, so some early obedience training is a must.

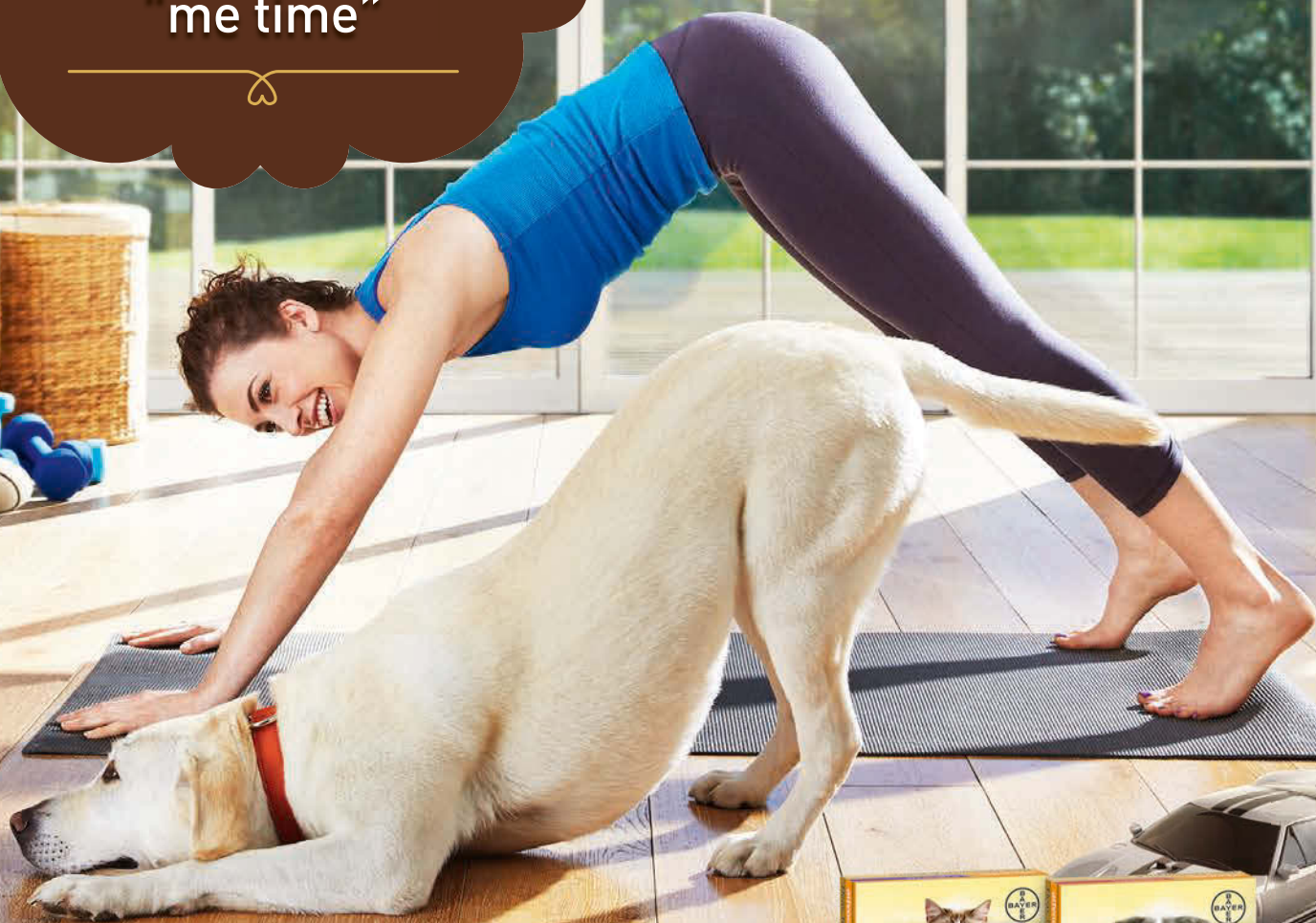
Sometimes miniature foxies just don't seem to realise how small they are, and are apt to get into confrontations with much larger dogs if not socialised properly. So get yours down to the local leash-free dog park to make friends at the first opportunity.

Breed all about it

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IN THE PICTURE

Median house prices for holiday homes since the GFC in 10 of Australia's top beach holiday spots. (Source: realestate.com.au).

	2009	2014 (Sept)
Byron Bay, NSW	\$710,000	\$812,500
Port Macquarie, NSW	\$370,500	\$425,250
Kiama, NSW	\$487,000	\$635,000
Surfers Paradise, Qld	\$1,000,000	\$1,112,500
Noosa Heads, Qld	\$688,500	\$690,000
Port Douglas, Qld	\$466,000	\$500,000
Torquay, Vic	\$417,000	\$595,000
Cowes, Vic (Phillip Island)	\$297,250	\$350,500
Kingscote, SA (Kangaroo Island)	\$240,000	\$240,000
Margaret River, WA	\$417,500	\$477,500



SWEPT AWAY

It's fine to fantasise about owning a holiday home. Just remember it's a lifestyle choice, not a moneymaker, writes **Harvey Grennan**.

At this time of year you may be sitting on a beach, soaking up the sun and dreaming of your very own holiday shack. Most of us check our bank balance and put such indulgent thoughts aside. If they linger, however, due diligence is called for.

Holiday homes are about lifestyle, not investment. They don't normally attract the same capital gains as homes in capital cities and, if you're counting on rentals to pay the bills, vacancy rates can be as high as 80 per cent. An analysis by David Staples of Pitcher Partners found that the annual cost of owning a holiday home with a \$500,000 mortgage would pay for about 90 nights in a luxury hotel. "They are usually bought when interest rates are low and sold because of

financial stress, typically when interest rates begin to rise," he says.

The value of coastal properties suffered disproportionately from the global financial crisis of 2007-2008. As discretionary assets, they were the first to go on the chopping block. This meant that tens, even hundreds, of empty units hit the market at the same time in many popular holiday spots. Now, however, most capital cities are enjoying buoyant property markets and the ripples have spread to beach resorts.

If you're set on a holiday home, there are some important issues to consider. First, try to buy as close as possible to a capital city, to achieve good holiday rental and occupancy rates, and close to your principal residence. If it's a long

drive from home, you won't use it yourself as much as you might imagine.

A unit or a house? You can simply lock up a unit and walk away with no outside maintenance to worry about and no lawns to mow. Holiday-makers, however, prefer to rent a house.

Do the maths: can you afford the mortgage repayments as well as stamp duty, council and water rates, electricity and gas, strata fees, agent's commission on rentals, land tax, repairs and insurance? Talk to local real estate agents about the rentals you're likely to achieve and for how many weeks a year.

Do you and your children want to spend your holidays in the same place every year? Even if you do, remember that you're likely to get the best rentals at the same time you may want to use the property, Christmas and Easter.

On the plus side, you can negatively gear a holiday home, claim tax benefits on the proportion of time the property is available for rent and claim tax deductions for running costs.

This high-Victorian papier-mâché chair made a striking appearance in a modern coffee table book.



COLLECTABLES

Innovative use of an everyday material led to the production of fine furniture and all manner of natty knick-knacks, writes **Leo Schofield**.

Throughout the ages, resourceful designers and manufacturers have contrived to make furniture from all manner of materials – straw, wood, metal, glass, plastic, even cardboard, but paper? Well, yes.

Papier-mâché, a method of creating 3D objects out of masticated paper, has been around for centuries. The process really took off in the late 19th century, however, after Englishman Theodore Jennens patented a process for steaming and pressing laminated paper into various shapes, thus transforming them into a dizzying variety of objects, utilitarian or purely decorative.

Although predominantly driven by its popularity in England, papier-mâché flourished elsewhere in Europe, the desirable black-and-gilt style becoming fashionable in France and as far away as Russia, which had its own thriving industry in ornamental papier-mâché.

Myriad assorted knick-knacks of which the Victorians were enamoured – from thimbles to toys, coasters, covers for family bibles and photo albums and suites of furniture – were all made in this manner. Gilding and handpainting was the standard form of decoration, although more elaborate items often incorporated mother of pearl. Flowers,

Windsor Castle, animals and London's Crystal Palace were favourite subjects.

Besides the traditional decorative stuff there were practical uses for all that soggy paper. Jennens' method allowed papier-mâché to be used in place of moulded plaster to create ornate cornices for the grand rooms of late-19th century houses. And a significant example can add a surprise touch to a modern interior.

Well-known Sydney design firm Burley Katon Halliday shows how this can be done in the luxurious coffee-table book containing alluring examples of its work (*Burley Katon Halliday* by Antonia Williams & Heidi Dokulil, \$110, Thames & Hudson). A magnificent example of high Victorian papier-mâché furniture, an armchair gilded and painted to within an inch of its life (pictured above), sits bang in the middle of a starkly modern interior. It's a startling contrast to the minimalist apartment interior.

The best examples in good condition are sought after, but if the gilding is rubbed or the paint worn, you can pick up a charming example for a song. As always, best to check for a manufacturer's mark. If a piece is marked Jennens, you can add a zero or two to the value. ■

Trash or treasure?

Q This light fitting is installed in the house I recently moved into. The house was built in 1969 or so. The light appears to be made from resin. Can you tell me anything about it? *Fiona Jerinic, Attadale, WA*

A You have a winner here, Fiona. It's an elegantly designed fitting that's a cut above the Bakelite fittings common in the 1960s. The colour is subtle, the design unusual and the condition appears excellent. Well-designed objects from this period are fetching solid prices and it would be no surprise to see a fitting as unusual and evocative of its time as this one fetch at least \$500 at auction, and double or treble that at one of the modish shops in Melbourne and Sydney retailing examples of good design from the third quarter of the 20th century.



WRITE TO LEO

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NEXT MONTH *February*

Read all about it: beautiful, organised family homes, sanity-saving storage ideas, teen study zones and wonderful ways with wood.

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January 5

Photograph by Maree Homer.



1 Urban Cartel Cloudy ceramic dish in Milk, \$25, From The Owl; fromtheowl.com. 2 Multi organic-bamboo stool, \$99, The Family Love Tree; (03) 9429 5864 or thefamilylovetree.com.au. 3 Blue Mountains Watercolour linen and cotton cushion cover, \$99, Feliz; 0401 823 460 or felizhome.com.au. 4 Granito A5 notebook, \$16, Lightly; (03) 9417 2440 or www.lightly.com.au. 5 H2O On-The-Go 1L BPA-free plastic drink bottles, \$56/set of four, Tupperware; 1800 805 396 or www.tupperware.com.au. 6 Pop & Scott Triangles fibre glass pot, \$110, Fenton & Fenton; (03) 9533 2323 or fentonandfenton.com.au. 7 Treehorn Tasmanian oak kitchen board in Pink, \$50, Southwood Home; (03) 9077 5474 or www.southwoodhome.com.au. 8 Kismet cotton beach towel, \$40, Bambury; 1300 766 762 or bambury.com.au. 9 Gelato ceramic measuring scoops, \$30/set of four, Mozi; www.mozi.com.au. For Where to Buy, see page 196.